



No. 4 THE 4th BIG ISSUE OF-

BEST of the **WEST****STRAIGHT
ARROW****DURANGO
KID****TIM
HOLT****THE
GHOST RIDER**

THE 5th BIG ISSUE OF-**BEST** of the **WEST****DURANGO
KID***the*
GHOST RIDER**STRAIGHT
ARROW****TIM
HOLT**

STRAIGHT ARROW

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN SETTLERS SHUDDERED AT THE SIGHT OF THE FULL MOON. "COMANCHE MOON," THEY CALLED IT... FOR ON THOSE NIGHTS, THE COMANCHES CAME GALLOPING WITH HATE IN THEIR HEARTS AND WAR-AXES IN THEIR HANDS... BUT NOW THE COMANCHES HAVE SIGNED A TREATY WITH THE WHITE MEN, AND LIVE IN HONORABLE PEACE...

ONE MAN—THUNDER CLOUD—YEARNS TO REVIVE THE BLOODY TRADITION OF THE COMANCHE MOON. AND THUNDER CLOUD IS A POWER TO BE RECKONED WITH—FOR HE HAS PROOF THAT HE IS —

"THE MAN WHO KILLED STRAIGHT ARROW!"

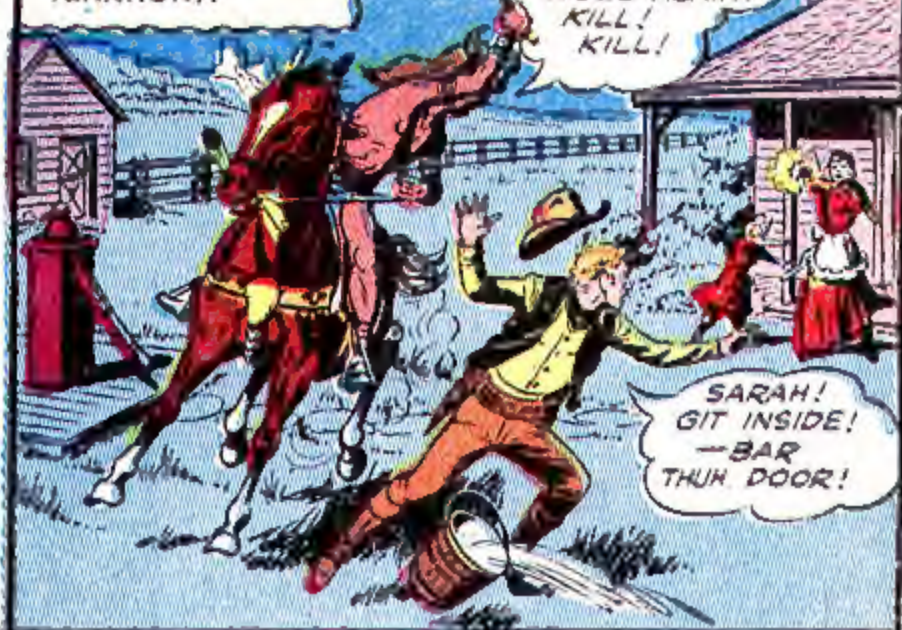
Ira Meagher



THE FULL MOON SHINES IN THE WESTERN SKY. ON THE RANCHES, YOUNG FOLKS WALK HAND-IN-HAND... ON THE PRAIRIE, A LONE COMANCHE, TAUT WITH HATE, GALLOPS FURIOUSLY...

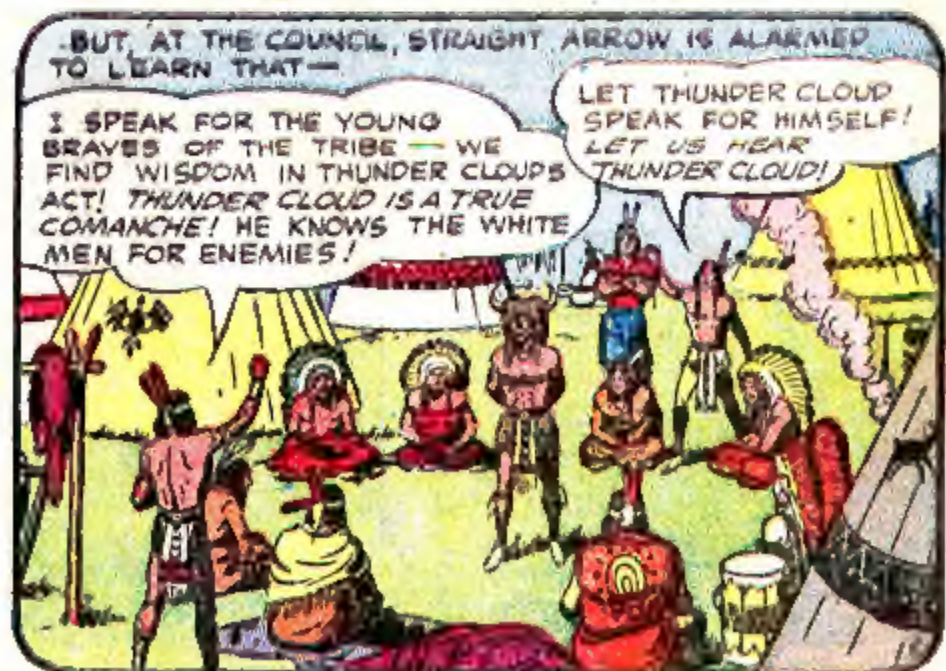
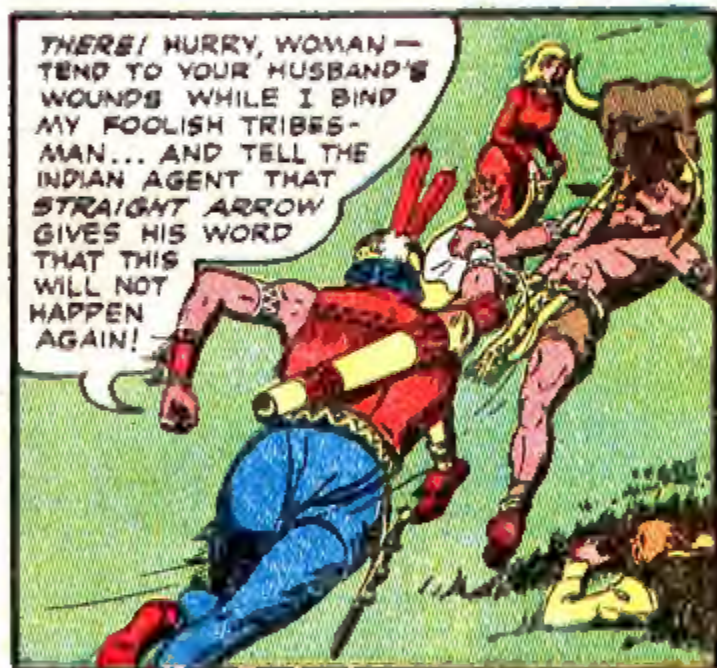
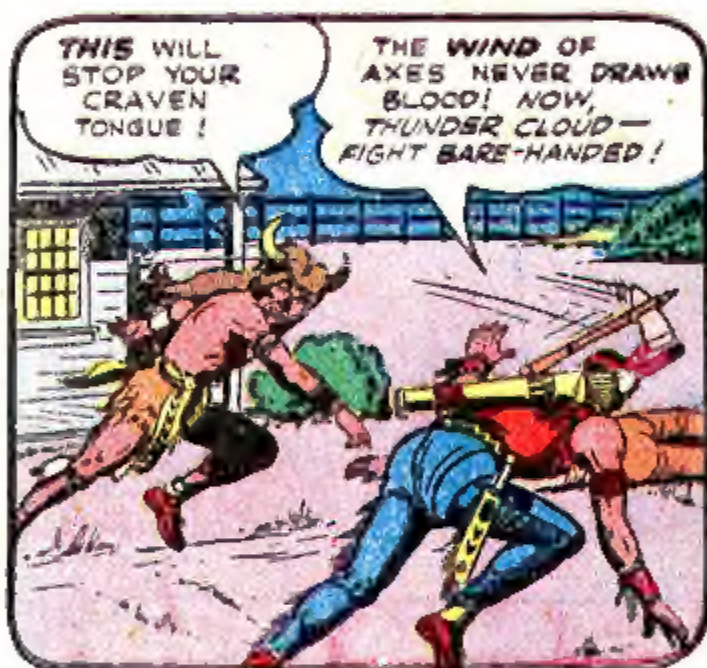
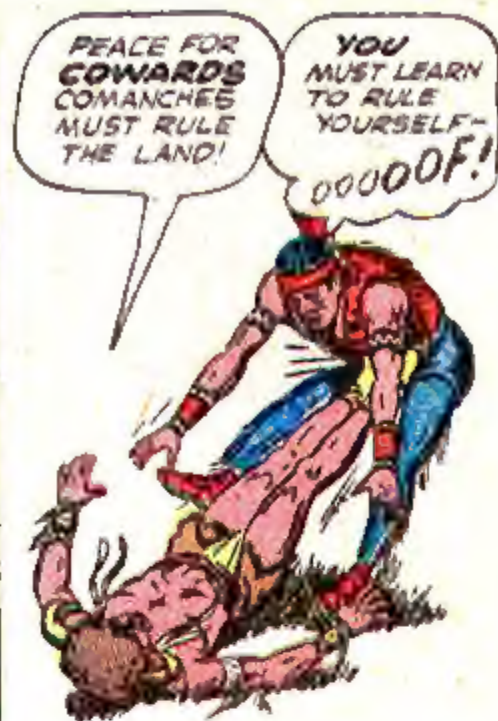


...TILL HE REACHES THE OUTERMOST RANCH IN THE TERRITORY!



THE MOON IS FULL—AND A COMANCHE RIDES AGAIN! KILL! KILL!

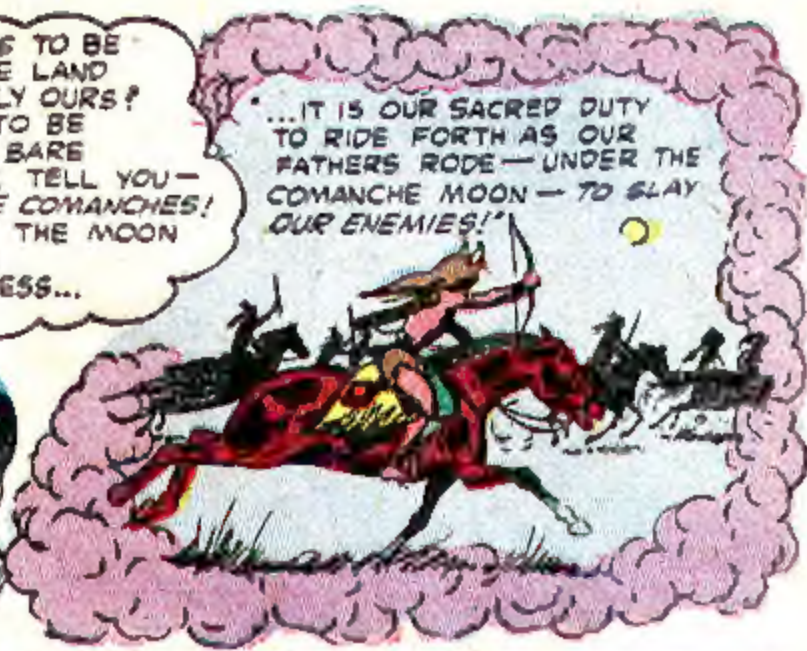
SARAH! GIT INSIDE! —BAR THUN DOOR!



THE CHIEF NODS CURTLY,
AND THUNDER CLOUD'S
THONGS ARE
LOOSENED—

ARE WE RABBITS TO BE
CHASED FROM THE LAND
THAT IS RIGHTFULLY OURS?
ARE WE SHEEP TO BE
PENNED INSIDE BARE
PASTURES? I TELL YOU—
NO! WE ARE COMANCHES!
AND WHEN THE MOON
RISES IN
ITS FULLNESS...

...IT IS OUR SACRED DUTY
TO RIDE FORTH AS OUR
FATHERS RODE—UNDER THE
COMANCHE MOON—TO SLAY
OUR ENEMIES!



THUNDER
CLOUD IS
RIGHT!

TOO LONG
HAVE WE
LIVED LIKE
RABBITS!

THE
COMANCHE
MOON!
THE
COMANCHE
MOON!

SILENCE! WE ARE NOT
COYOTES TO HOWL NEED-
LESSLY WHEN ONLY CALM
AND COOL WORDS CAN
LEAD US TO
WISDOM!
SILENCE—
I SAY!

CHIEF, MAY I
ADDRESS
THE
COUNCIL?

THE WHITE MAN IS HERE TO
STAY...AND TO LIVE IN PEACE
WITH HIM IS THE PATH OF
WISDOM. WE HAVE SIGNED
THE PAPER, GIVING OUR WORD.
LET IT NOT BE SAID THAT
COMANCHES
ARE WITHOUT
HONOR...

LET THERE
BE A
VOTE!

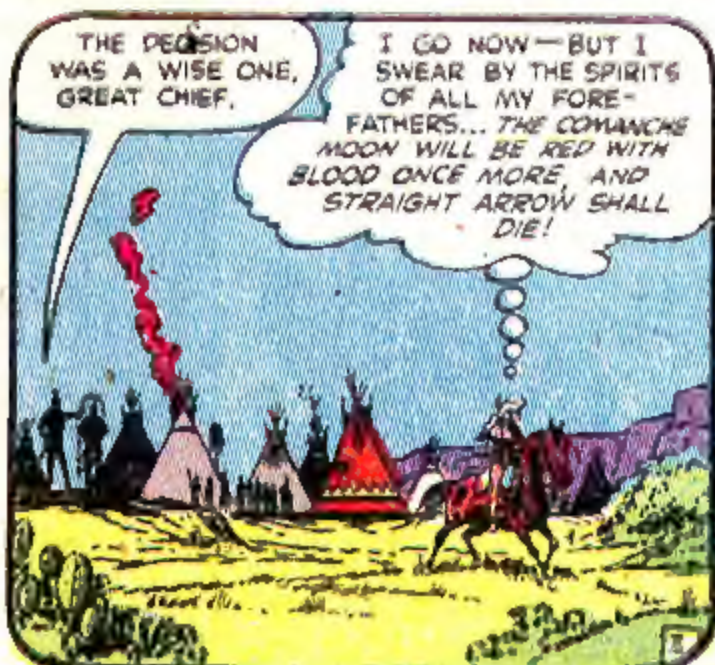


AFTER
THE
VOTE—

THE COUNT WAS CLOSE...BUT THE
COUNCIL HAS DECIDED! THE COMANCHE
MOON SHALL **NOT** STAND FOR BLOOD-
LETTING BUT FOR PEACE AND
HONOR...THUNDER CLOUD
SHALL BE BANISHED! AND
SUCH WILL BE THE FATE OF
ANY COMANCHE WHO
TRANSGRESSES AS
HE DID!

THE DECISION
WAS A WISE ONE,
GREAT CHIEF,

I GO NOW—BUT I
SWEAR BY THE SPIRITS
OF ALL MY FORE-
FATHERS...THE COMANCHE
MOON WILL BE RED WITH
BLOOD ONCE MORE, AND
STRAIGHT ARROW SHALL
DIE!



WEEKS LATER... AND STRAIGHT ARROW, HIGH IN THE MOUNTAINS, PURSUING A LION THAT HAS BEEN PREYING ON THE COMANCHE HERDS. WHAT HE DOES NOT KNOW—IS THAT SOMEONE IS PURSUING HIM!

HE HAS EYES AND EARS ONLY FOR THE LION HE IS TRACKING! SOON NOW... STRAIGHT ARROW SHALL DIE!

SUDDENLY...

THE WIND SHIFTED—AND HE SCENTED ME! I MUST SHOOT FAST!

HA! THE LION IS DOING MY WORK FOR ME....!

THE TRAIL IS FRESH!

THE ARROW STRUCK HOME—BUT HE KEEPS CHARGING!

HE COMES TOO FAST—I MUST STAND AND FIGHT!—BUT I CAN'T KEEP THIS UP MUCH LONGER... THAT LOG—IT'S MY ONLY CHANCE!

CALLING ON HIS LAST OUNCE OF STRENGTH, STRAIGHT ARROW FORCES THE LION DOWN OVER THE LOG—

THERE! NOW TO BEAR DOWN AS HARD AS I CAN!

AND THE LION'S SPINE SNAPS!

HE'S DEAD! NOW TO—THAT SHADOW!—SOMEONE IS BEHIND ME!



THE NEXT DAY, BACK
AT THE COMANCHE
ENCAMPMENT.

THUNDER CLOUD, STOP
WHERE YOU ARE—YOU
WERE BANISHED!

YOU CANNOT BANISH YOUR
GREATEST WARRIOR! I HAVE
JUST KILLED STRAIGHT ARROW
IN FAIR COMBAT! HERE—
HIS BUCKSKIN JACKET, HIS
QUIVER, AND GOLD-TIPPED
ARROWS—THEY PROVE—
WHAT I SAY!



AIEEE—
STRAIGHT
ARROW
WAS A GOOD
MAN.

BUT THUNDER CLOUD IS
A BETTER ONE! LEAD US,
THUNDER CLOUD, WHEN THE
MOON IS FULL, AGAIN,
AGAINST THE WHITE MAN
WHO STOLE OUR LAND!



LATER...

THEN IT IS
SETTLED! ONE
WEEK FROM TONIGHT—
WHEN THE MOON IS FULL—
WE RIDE OUT IN WAR
PAINT AGAINST THE
WAGON TRAIN BEARING
SUPPLIES TO FORT
DANGER!



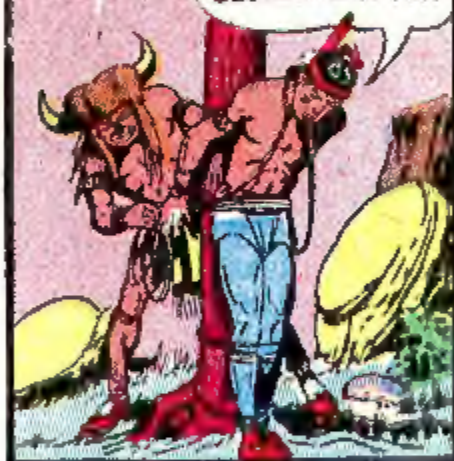
THE NIGHT OF THE RAID!

I LIED TO THE OTHERS...
YOU ARE STILL ALIVE—IF
ONLY BARELY SO. NOW I
WILL BIND YOU TO THE
TREE SO YOU CAN WATCH
THE END OF YOUR ERA OF
PEACE IN THE VALLEY...
AND AT DAWN I SHALL RETURN
TO KILL YOU WITH ONE OF
YOUR OWN GOLDEN
ARROWS!

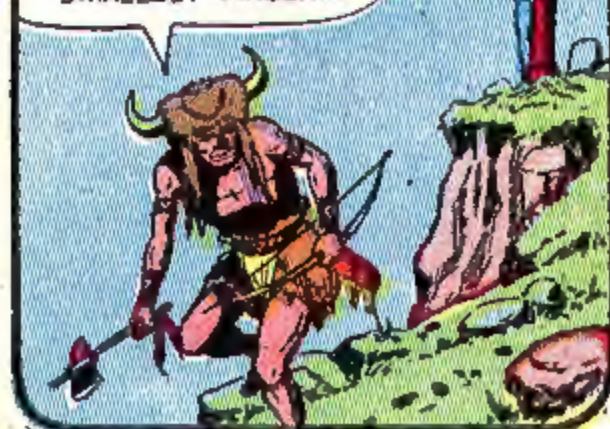


YOU KEEP SAGGING LIKE AN
EMPTY BUFFALO HIDE!
STAND STRAIGHT—
OR I WILL KILL
YOU NOW!

CAN'T...
LOST
SO MUCH...
BLOOD...CAN'T...



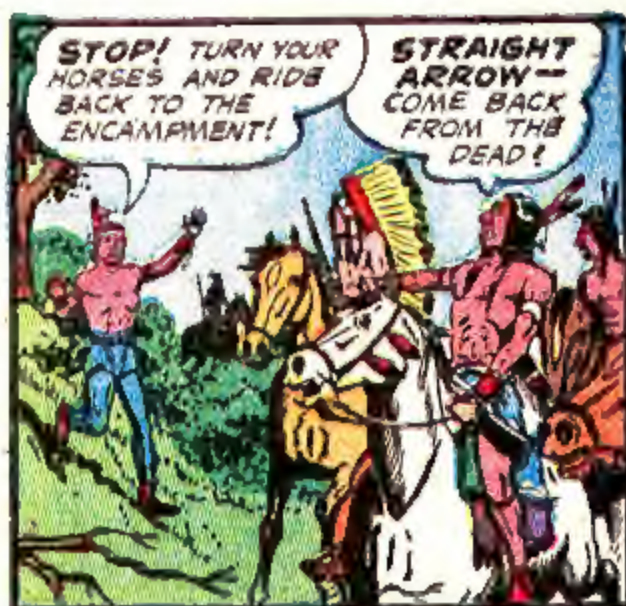
NOW DOWN THE PATH TO MEET
THE YOUNG BRAVES WHO EAGERLY
AWAIT ME—THEIR LEADER! ...
NO NEED TO WORRY
ABOUT STRAIGHT ARROW'S
THOUGHTS—HE IS TOO
WEAK TO LIFT HIS
SMALLEST FINGER...



A SHORT
TIME
LATER...

THE WAGON TRAIN! AND
THERE GOES THUNDER CLOUD
AND HIS MISGUIDED
BRAVES!







BEST
OF
WEST

No. 6

THE 6th BIG ISSUE OF-

10¢

BEST of the **WEST**





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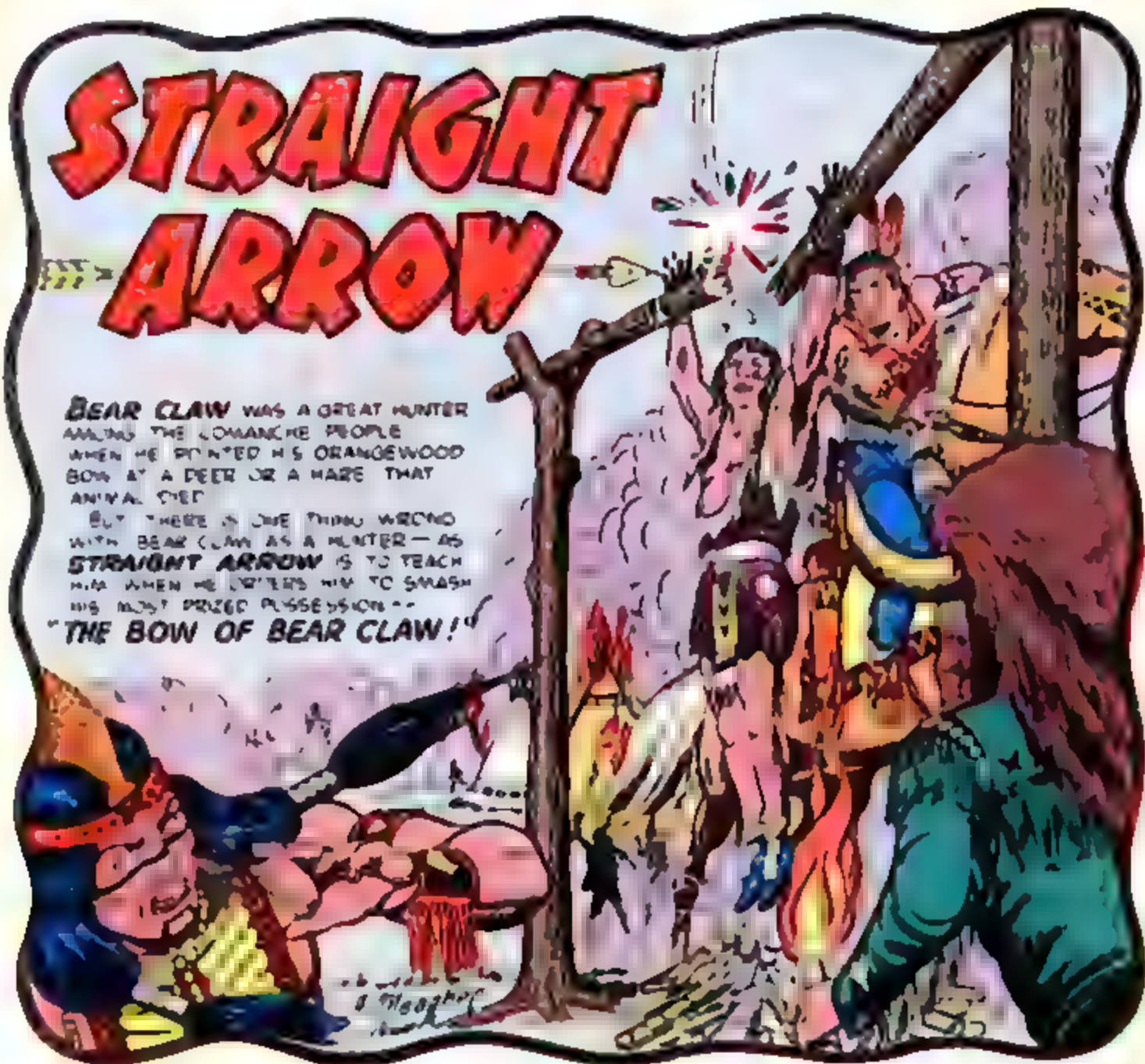
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No C.O.Ds Send check or money order

STRAIGHT ARROW

BEAR CLAW WAS A GREAT HUNTER
AMONG THE COMANCHE PEOPLE
WHEN HE POINTED HIS ORANGEWOOD
BOW AT A DEER OR A HARE THAT
ANIMAL DIED

BUT THERE IS ONE THING WRONG
WITH BEAR CLAW AS A HUNTER — AS
STRAIGHT ARROW IS TO TEACH
HIM WHEN HE URGES HIM TO SMASH
HIS MOST PRIZED POSSESSION —
"THE BOW OF BEAR CLAW!"



BEAR CLAW CAN STAND TWO HUNDRED FEET
FROM A FEEDING ELK AND FELL HIM WITH
A SINGLE ARROW!



HIS SHAPTS FIND MEAT WHERE ONLY ONE OTHER
COMANCHE DARE'S GO!

STRAIGHT
ARROW

THE TRIBE EATS
WELL BEAR CLAW WITH
YOU AS 'S HUNTER!



ONLY MY ORANGEWOOD BOW COULD HAVE BROUGHT DOWN SUCH MEAT WITHOUT IT I AM HELPLESS

IT IS A GOOD BOW BEAR CLAW— BUT **ONLY** A BOW!

IN CAMP, AFTER THE HUNTERS HAVE TURNED OVER THE GAME TO THE WOMEN—

HAI—YOU'RE FALLING!

MY ANKLE! I TWISTED IT, BACK ON THOSE HIGH ROCKS. IT HAS SWOLLEN!

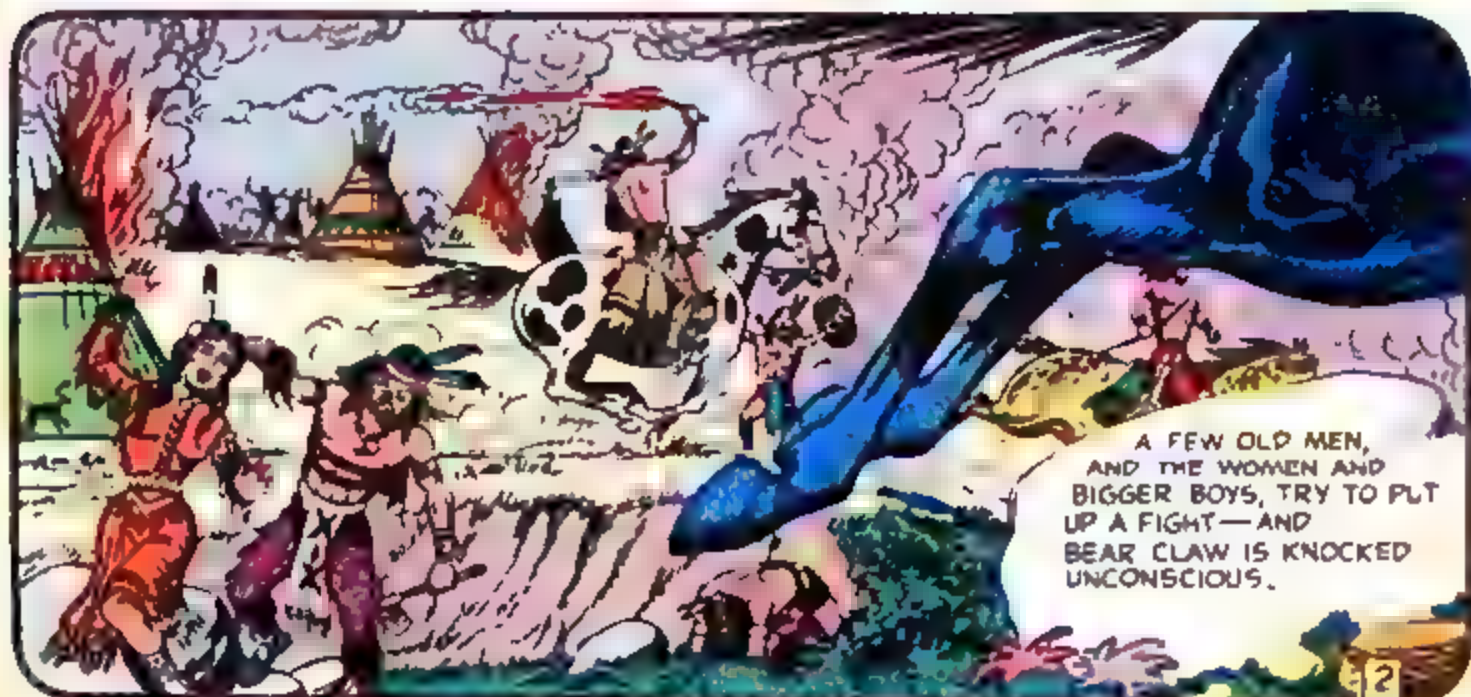
NEXT DAY, AS THE COMANCHE WARRIORS RIDE FORTH ON THE WARPATH AGAINST A BAND OF RAIDING UTES

MY ANKLE IS SO SWOLLEN, I CANNOT RIDE WITH THEM

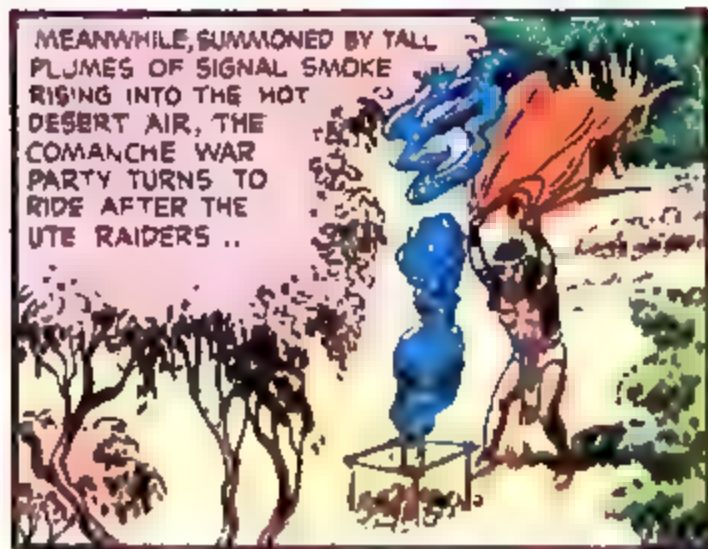
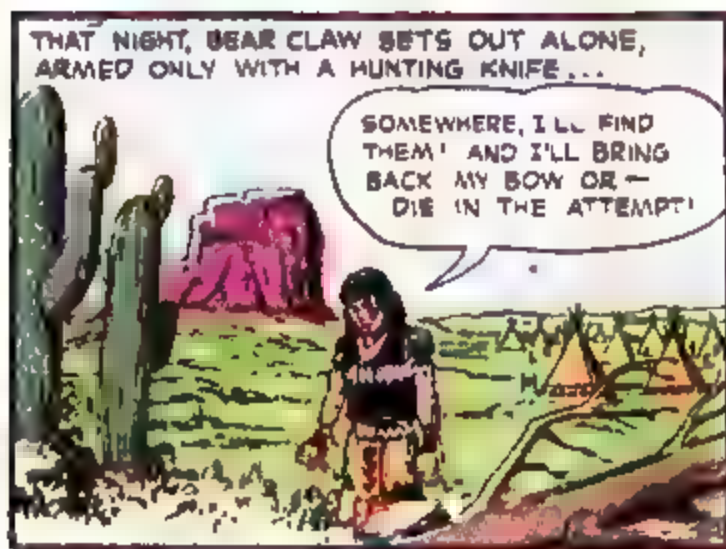
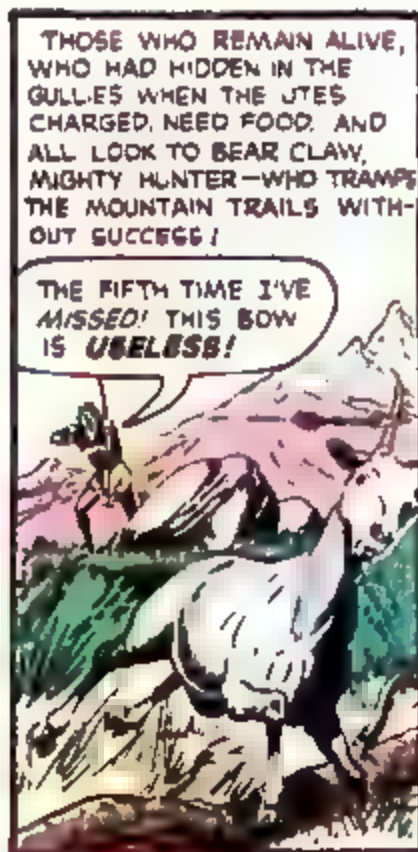
OTHER EYES THAN THOSE OF BEAR CLAW WATCH THE WAR PARTY FILE OUT INTO THE HILLS—

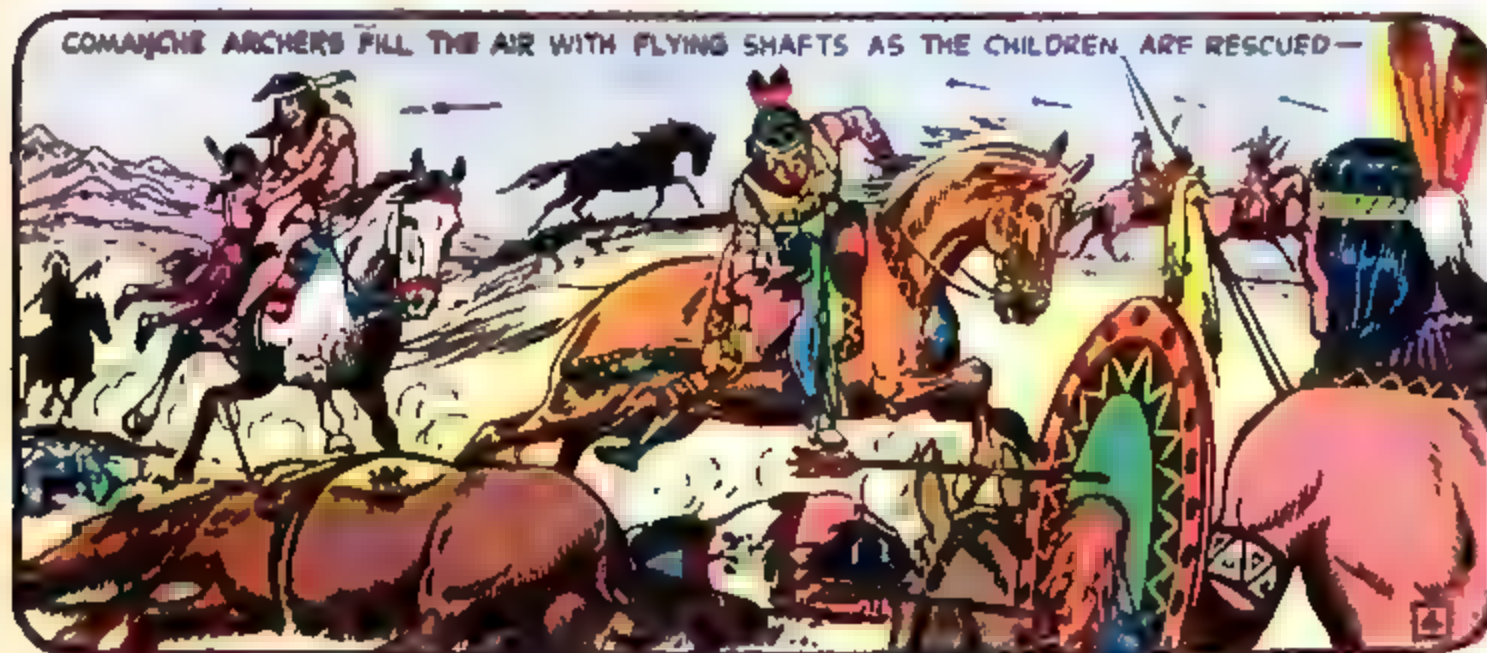
THEY'VE GONE—AND LEFT THE CAMP UNPROTECTED

THE LURKING UTE RAIDERS HIT THE COMANCHE CAMP WITH LANCES AND ARROWS...

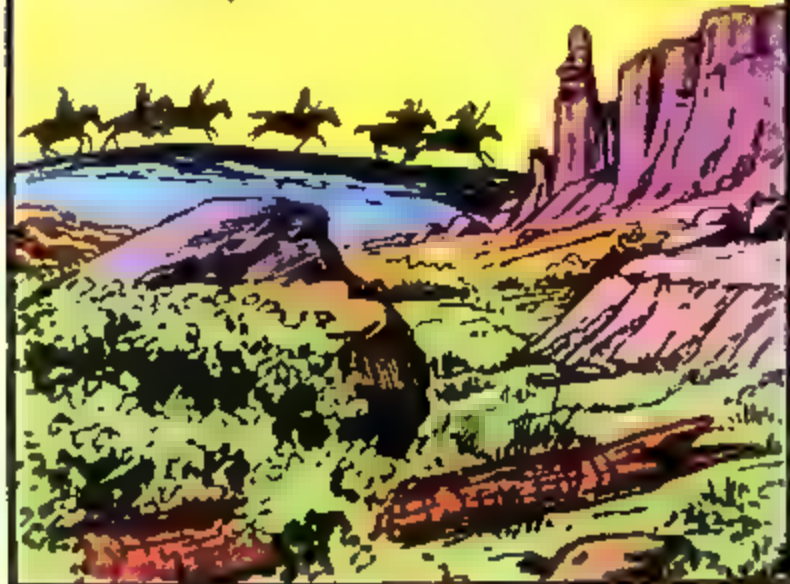


A FEW OLD MEN, AND THE WOMEN AND BIGGER BOYS, TRY TO PUT UP A FIGHT—AND BEAR CLAW IS KNOCKED UNCONSCIOUS.





STUNNED BY THE COMANCHE ATTACK, MADDED BY THEIR LOSSES, THE UTE FLEE IN BITTER RAGE —



IN THIS MAD FURY, THEY RIDE DOWN UPON BEAR CLAW, SEARCHING FOR HIS ORANGE-WOOD BOW.

A LONE COMANCHE! HE SHALL PAY FOR WHAT HIS FELLOWS DID!



A CLUB SWINGS A VICIOUS ARC...



HALF DAZED, BEAR CLAW IS DRAGGED ALONG AT TOP SPEED, AT THE END OF TWO MAGLEY ROPES...

I CAN'T RUN SO FAST. I'LL FALL AND BE DRAGGED TO DEATH!



HE STAGGERS BETWEEN TWO ROWS OF UTE SQUANS, WHO LASH OUT AT HIM WITH TWIGS AND BRANCHES...

MUSTN'T SHOW THEY HURT! MUST BE PROUD! LET THEM KNOW A COMANCHE KNOWS HOW TO FACE TORTURE!

I WILL SING MY DEATH-SONG PROUDLY! EVEN WHEN THE FIRE EATS ME, I WILL SING!

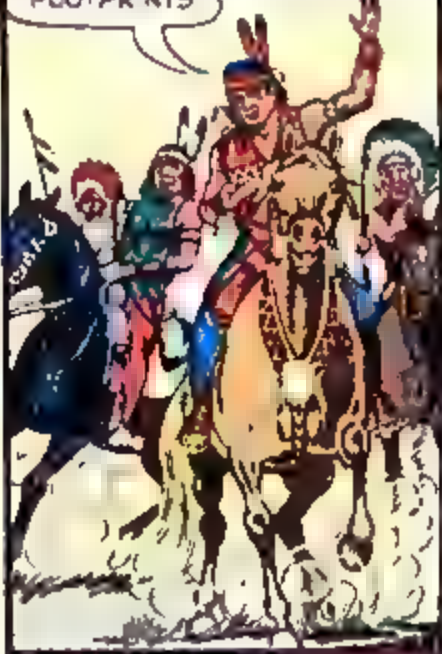


AS THE MEDICINE MAN RISES, THE TORTURE OF BEAR CLAW BEGINS!



IN THE MEANWHILE, MILES FROM THE UTE CAMP—

HALT! FOOTPRINTS MARK THE GROUND—COMANCHE FOOTPRINTS



I HAVE HUNTED WITH BEAR CLAW TOO LONG NOT TO KNOW HIS TRACKS WHEN I SEE THEM! HE CAME ALONE HERE, AND WENT INTO UTE COUNTRY

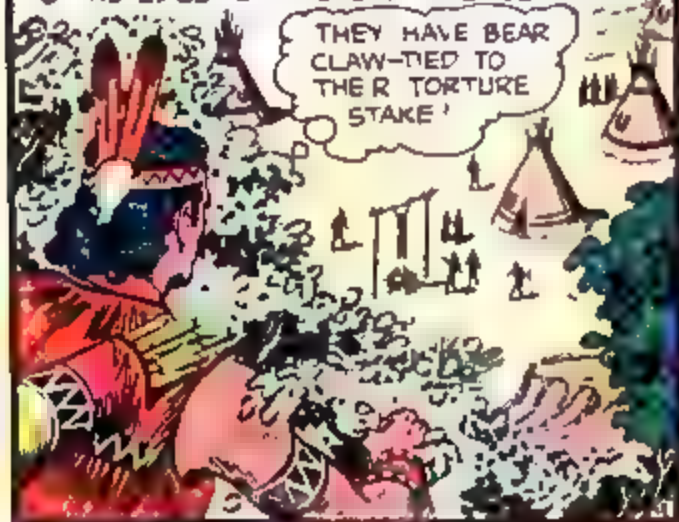


IF THOSE UTES FIND BEAR CLAW, THEY WILL VENT THEIR FURY ON HIM. I RIDE AFTER HIM. YOU TAKE THE CHILDREN BACK TO CAMP



HOURS LATER, STRAIGHT ARROW CREEPS CLOSE TO THE EDGE OF THE UTE VILLAGE

THEY HAVE BEAR CLAW-TIED TO THEIR TORTURE STAKE!



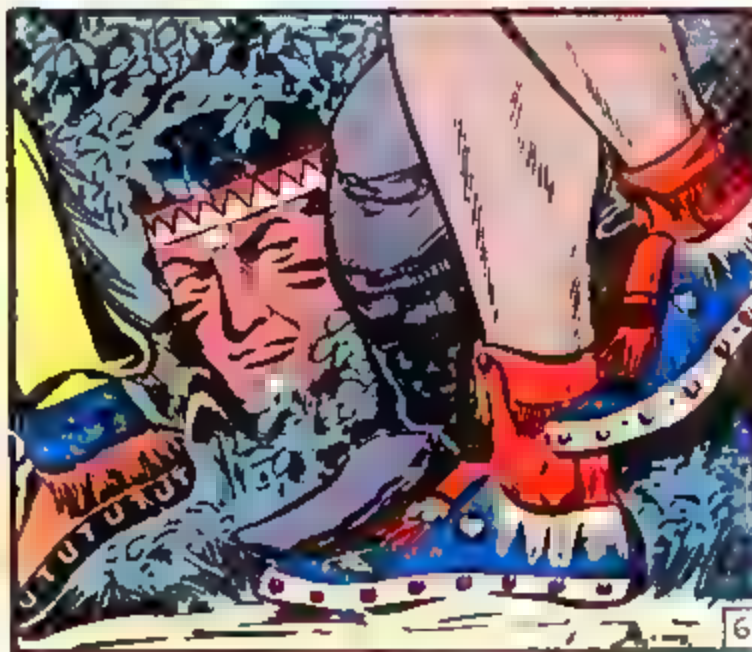
THEN A SHIFT IN THE WIND CARRIES HIS SCENT TO THE UTE DOGS AND PONIES...

AIE! PERHAPS THE COMANCHES HAVE COME TO RESCUE THE ONE WE HAVE CAPTURED!



THERE ARE NOT MANY OF THEM I SEE NO PONIES. NO DUST!

PERHAPS IT'S ONLY A PUMA DOWN OFF THE HILLS, THAT FRIGHTENED THE ANIMALS

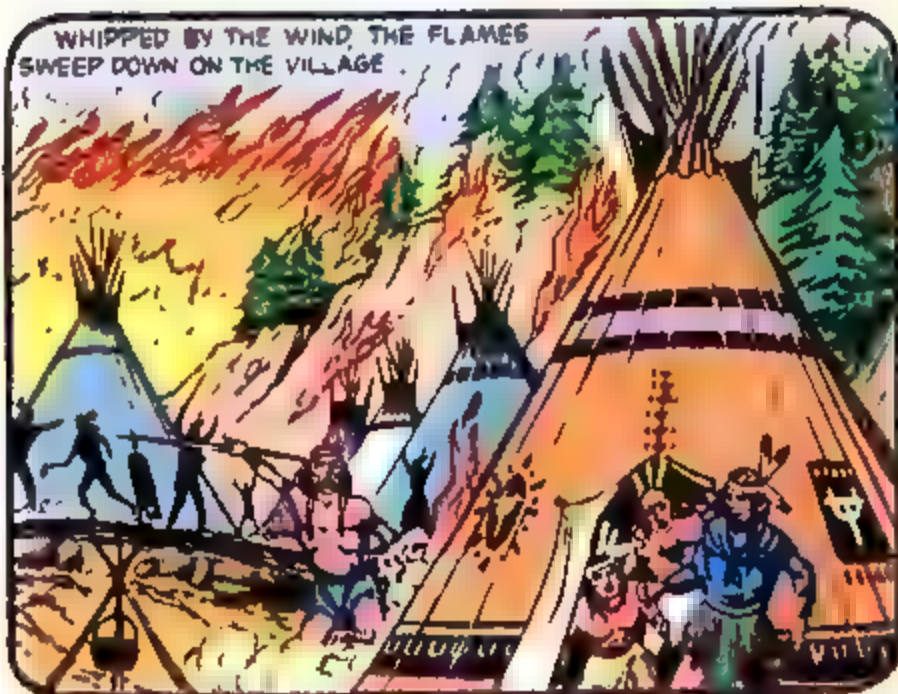


AS THE UTE PASS BY, STRAIGHT
ARROW RSES AND STRIKES A SPARK
FROM STEEL AND FLINT.

THE ~~MAN~~ THAT
BETRAYED ME—WILL
BE MADE TO SERVE
ME

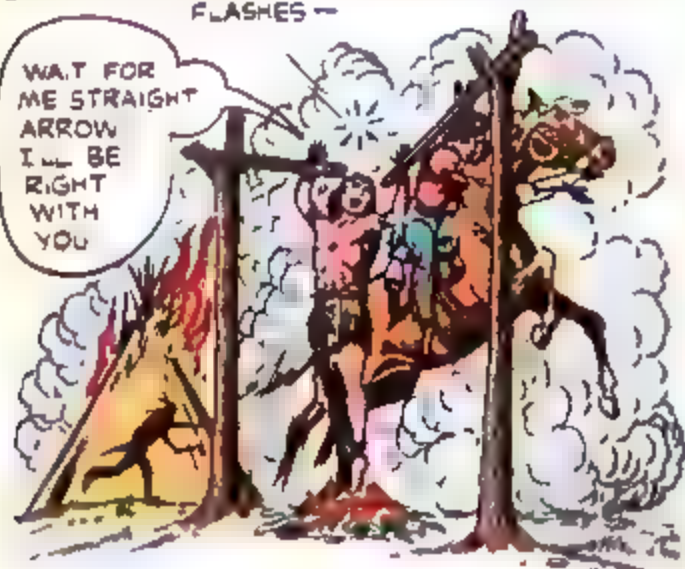


WHIPPED BY THE WIND, THE FLAMES
SWEEP DOWN ON THE VILLAGE.



HIDDEN BY SMOKE AND FLAMES, THE GREAT
COMANCHE WAR CHIEF GALLOPS IN! HIS TOMAHAWK
FLASHES—

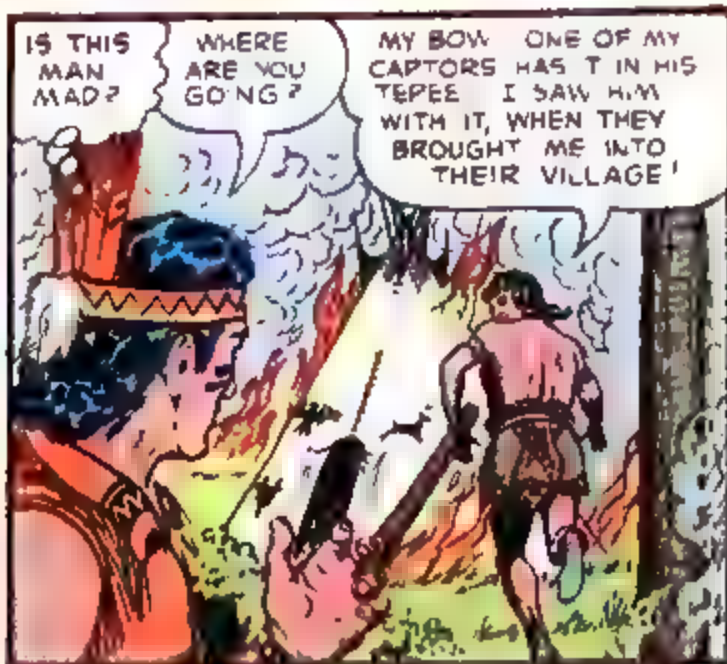
WAIT FOR
ME STRAIGHT
ARROW
I'LL BE
RIGHT
WITH
YOU



IS THIS
MAN
MAD?

WHERE
ARE YOU
GOING?

MY BOW ONE OF MY
CAPTORS HAS IT IN HIS
TEPEE I SAW HIM
WITH IT, WHEN THEY
BROUGHT ME INTO
THEIR VILLAGE!



YOU GOT YOUR
BOW—BUT YOU
COST US THE
ADVANTAGE
OF SURPRISE!
THE UTE
ARE AFTER
US!

BUT I
HAD TO
GET MY
BOW!
WITHOUT
IT I CAN'T
HUNT!



BURDENED DOUBLE FURY
RACES ON! BUT THE PACE
TELLS! AS THE UTE PONIES
GAIN, STRAIGHT ARROW LEAPS
FROM FURY'S BACK! HE AND
BEAR CLAW CLIMB A ROCK
RIDGE

WE CAN HOLD
THEM OFF FROM
HERE— BUT
NOT FOR
LONG!



IF ONLY WE COULD
SIGNAL OUR PEOPLE!
THE COMANCHES
WILL HAVE BROUGHT
THE CAPTURED
CHILDREN HOME BY
THIS TIME THEY WILL
BE LOOKING
FOR US

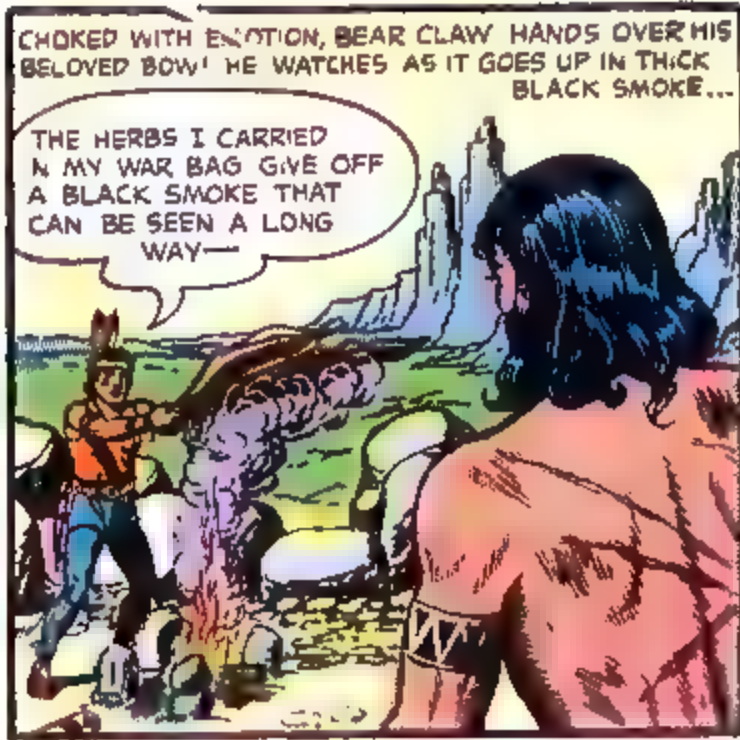
BUT WE
HAVE NO
WOOD
WITH
WHICH TO
START A
FIRE!





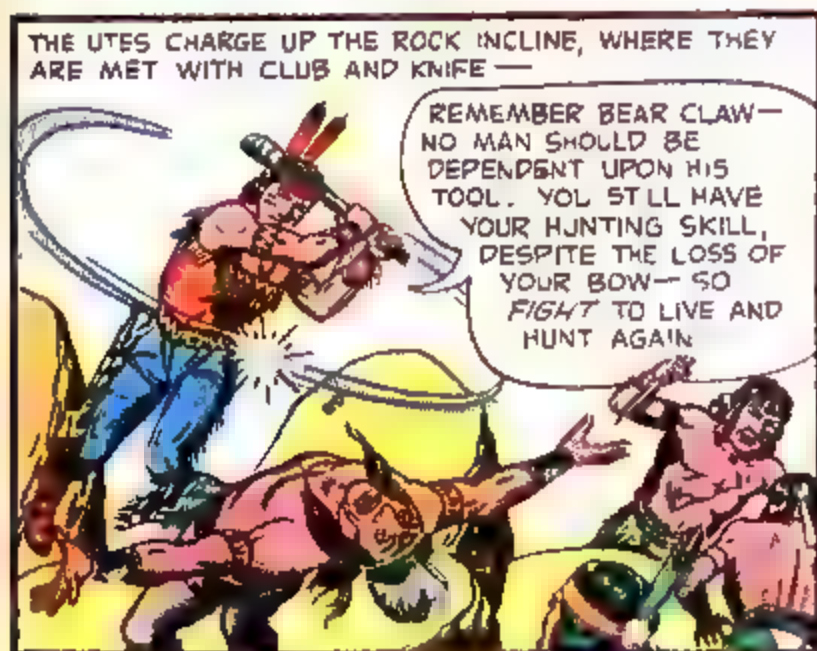
WE HAVE OUR BOWS, BEAR CLAW! WILL YOU GIVE UP YOUR BOW TO SAVE OUR LIVES?

I—I—



CHOKED WITH EMOTION, BEAR CLAW HANDS OVER HIS BELOVED BOW! HE WATCHES AS IT GOES UP IN THICK BLACK SMOKE...

THE HERBS I CARRIED IN MY WAR BAG GIVE OFF A BLACK SMOKE THAT CAN BE SEEN A LONG WAY—



THE UTES CHARGE UP THE ROCK INCLINE, WHERE THEY ARE MET WITH CLUB AND KNIFE—

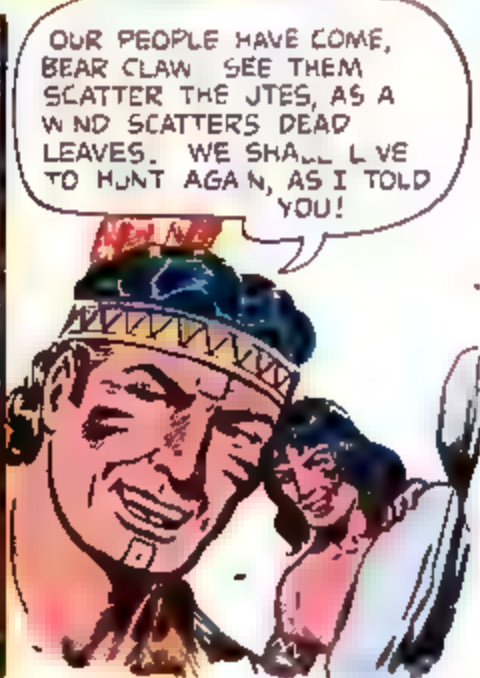
REMEMBER BEAR CLAW—NO MAN SHOULD BE DEPENDENT UPON HIS TOOL. YOU STILL HAVE YOUR HUNTING SKILL, DESPITE THE LOSS OF YOUR BOW—SO FIGHT TO LIVE AND HUNT AGAIN



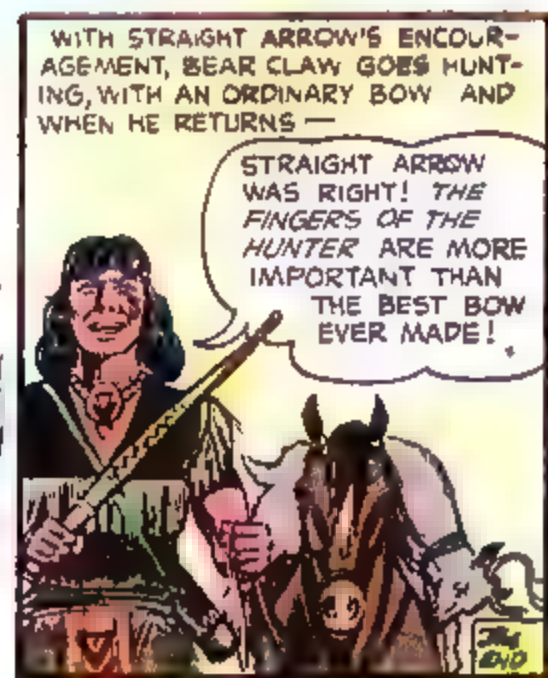
NO USE TOO MANY OF THEM!



AND THEN A DOZEN WAR ARROWS FLASH IN THE SUNLIGHT! THE COMANCHE WAR WHOOP SOUNDS!



OUR PEOPLE HAVE COME, BEAR CLAW SEE THEM SCATTER THE UTES, AS A WIND SCATTERS DEAD LEAVES. WE SHALL LIVE TO HUNT AGAIN, AS I TOLD YOU!



WITH STRAIGHT ARROW'S ENCOURAGEMENT, BEAR CLAW GOES HUNTING, WITH AN ORDINARY BOW AND WHEN HE RETURNS—

STRAIGHT ARROW WAS RIGHT! THE FINGERS OF THE HUNTER ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE BEST BOW EVER MADE!

THE END



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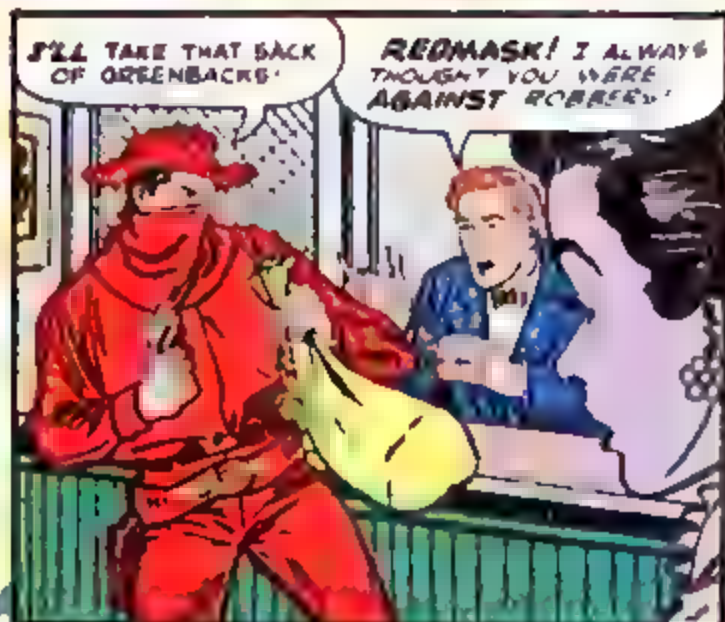
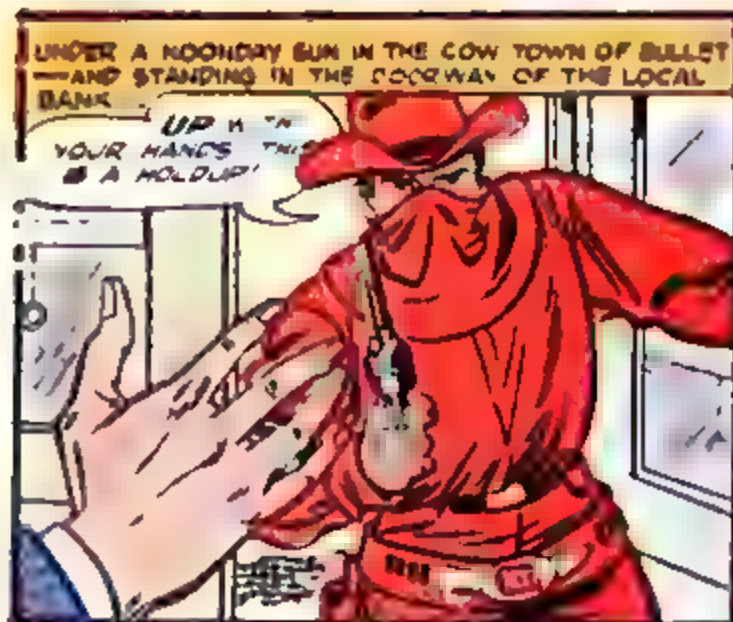
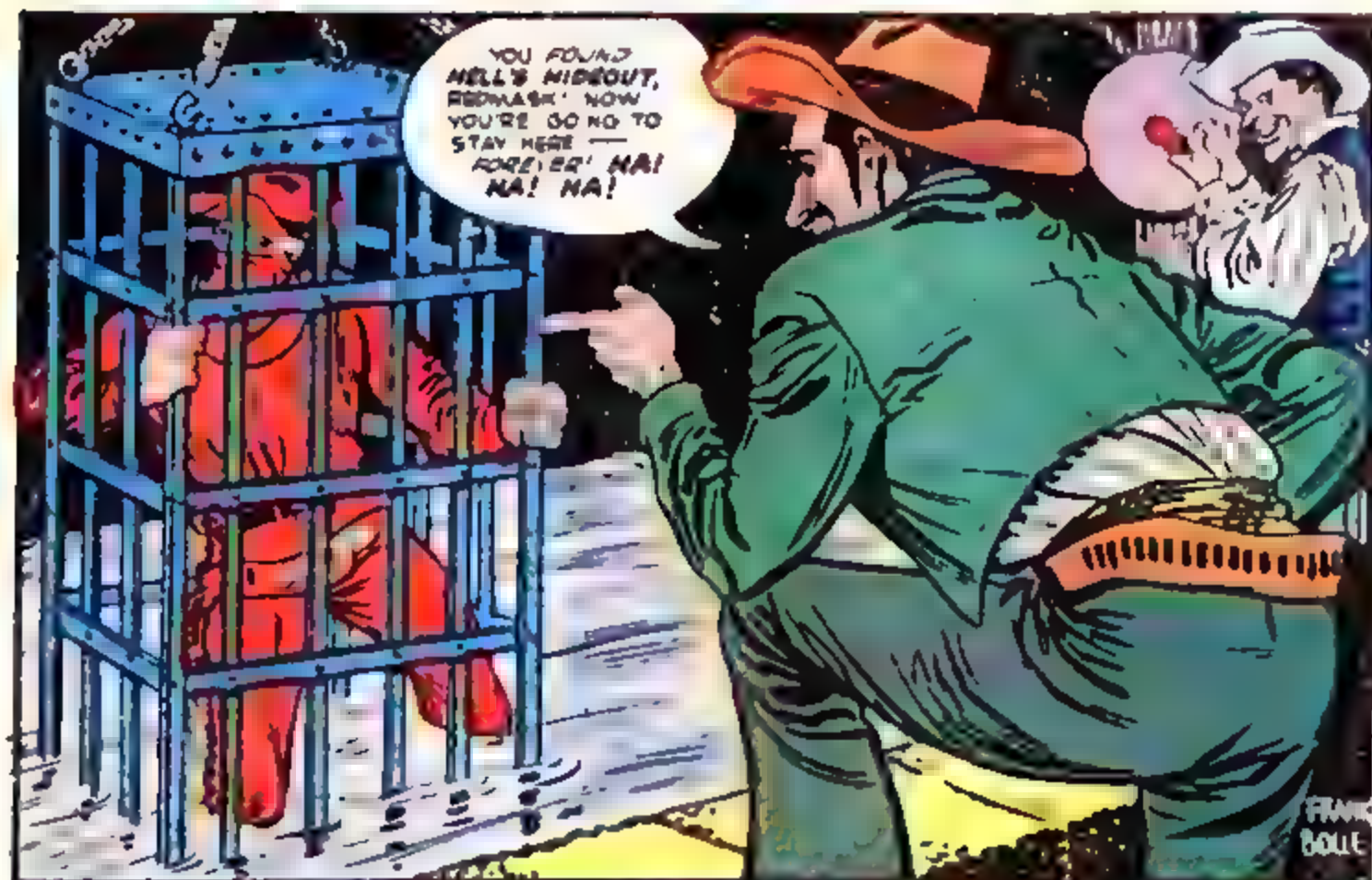
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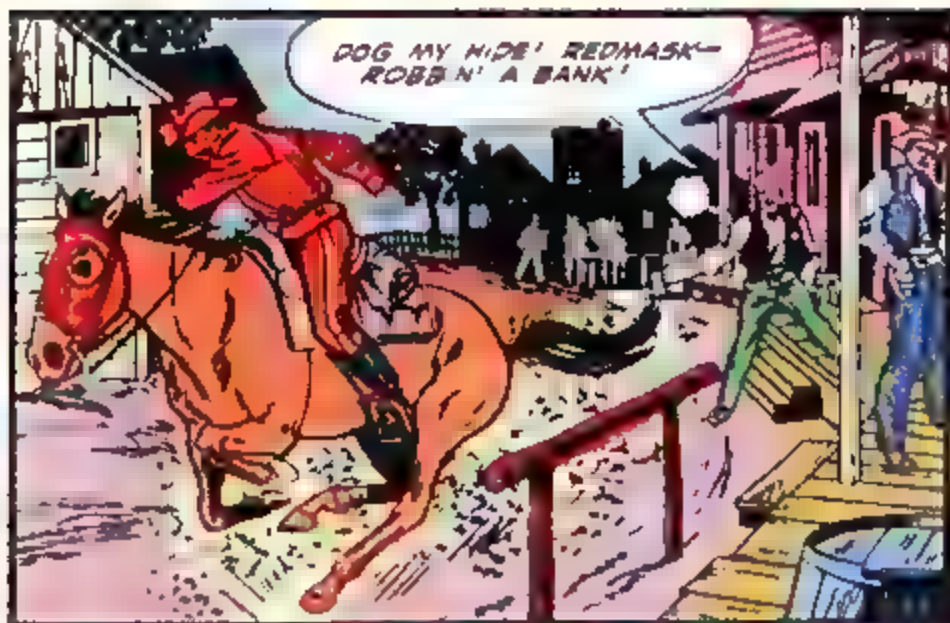


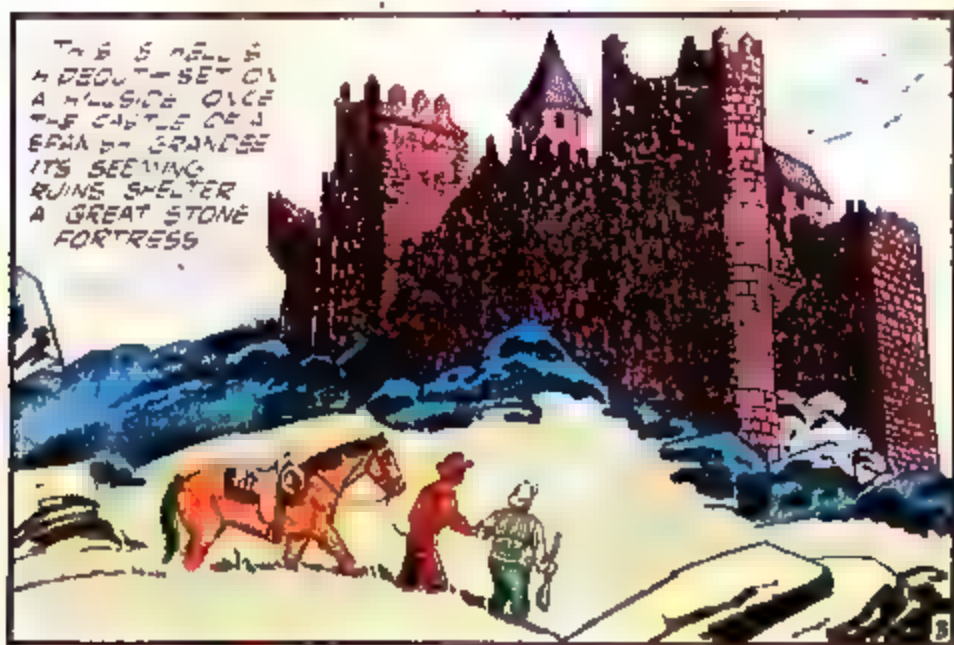
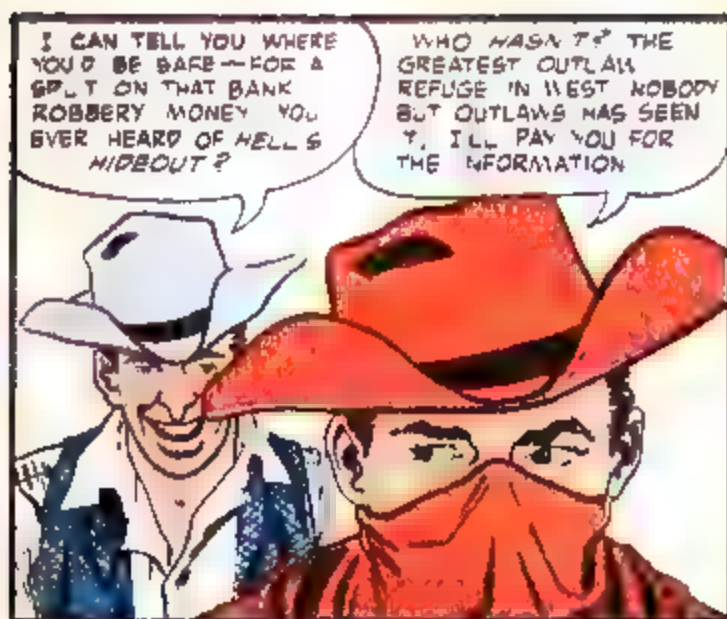
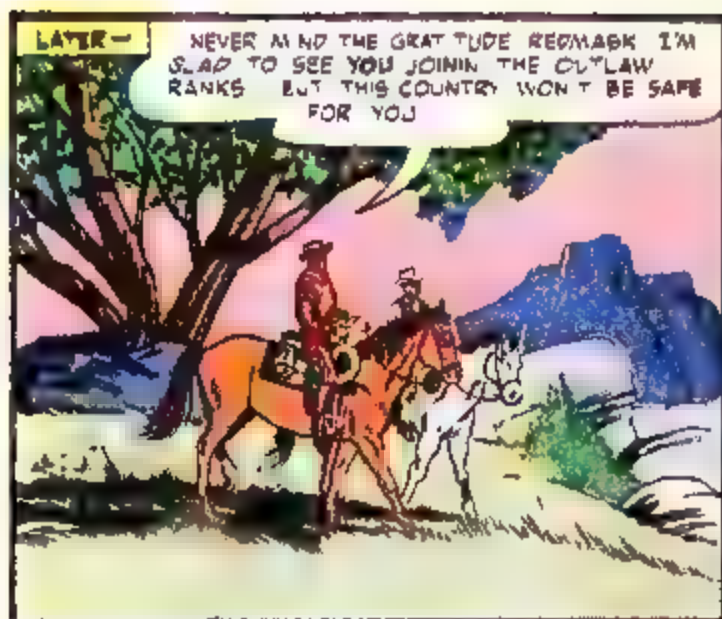
TIM HOLT

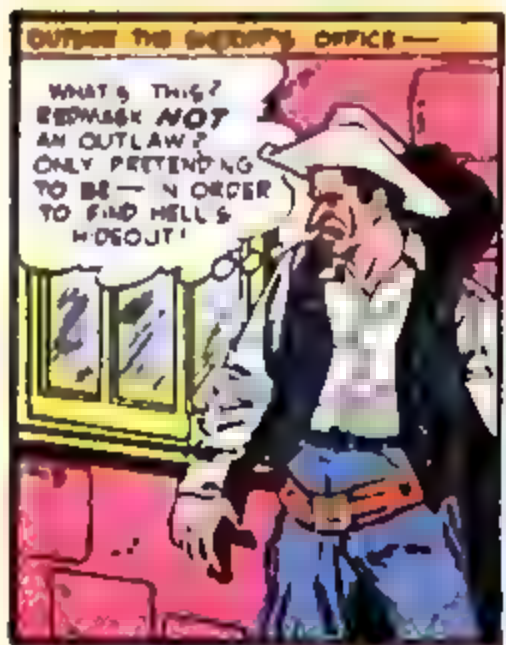
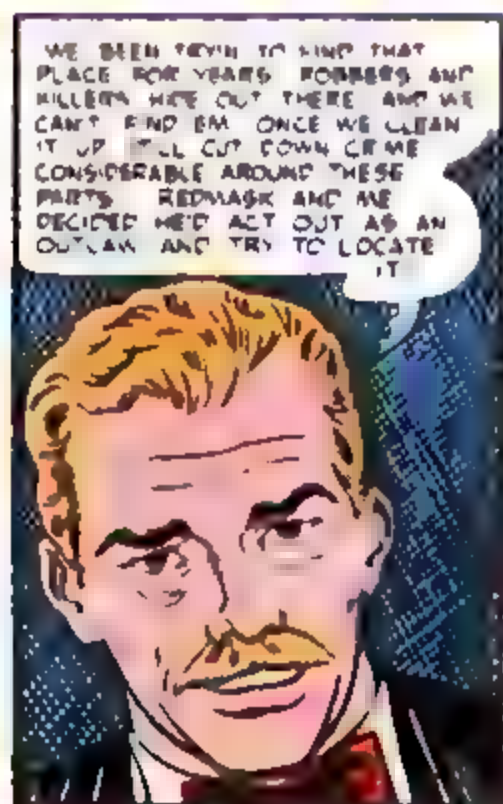
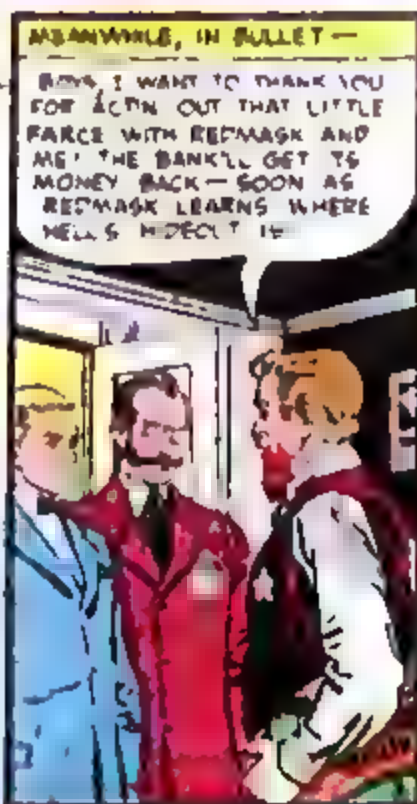
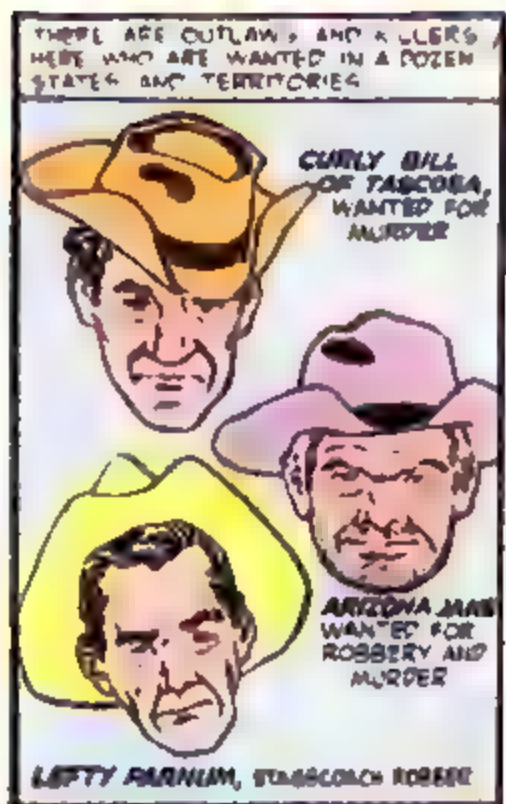
REDMASK—A BANDIT?
REDMASK—WANTED FOR
ROBBERY AND MURDER!
 THAT WAS THE NEWS THAT SWEEP
 THE COUNTRY FROM BULLET TO
 THE BRAZOS AND THE CROMSON
 CAVALIER FLED FOR HIS LIFE
 FROM FURSE BULLETS SEEKING
 SAFETY.

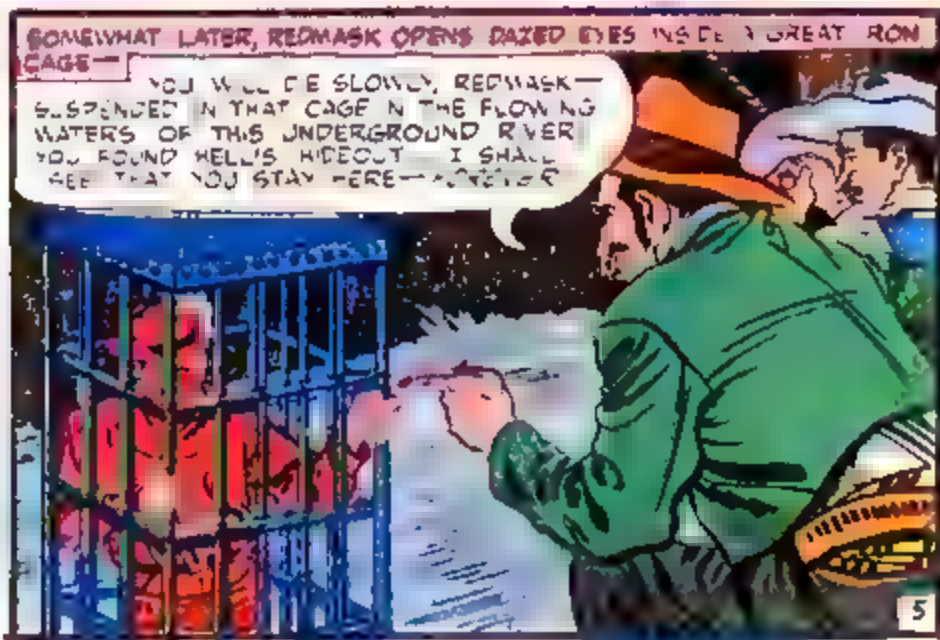
HELL'S HIDEOUT!











STEADILY WITH TORTURING SLOWNESS, THE CHAIN LOWERS THE CAGE.



THEN THE CAGE DISAPPEARS! BUT UNDER WATER, REDMASK'S HANDS MOVE SWIFTLY.



THE HOLLOW HANDLE OF MY KNIFE CONTAINS A MASTER KEY — THAT WILL OPEN THIS CAGE IN A SECOND.

THE FRENCH DETECTIVE OF THE SURETE WHO TAUGHT ME MUCH OF THE NEW TECHNIQUE OF FIGHTING CRIME WITH SCIENCE, ALSO SHOWED ME WAYS OF CONCEALING KEYS AND POWDERS — THAT COME IN HANDY WHEN NEEDED.



HOURS LATER, IN BULLET —

GET YOUR MEN TOGETHER, SHERIFF! I'LL LEAD YOU TO HELL'S HIDEOUT!

I KNEW YOU'D DO IT, REDMASK!



BUT, IN THE HIDEOUT THEMSELVES, REDMASK'S ESCAPE IS SOON DISCOVERED.

REDMASK WILL BRING A POSSE HERE.

LET HIM! YOU FORGOTTEN OUR SPECIAL DEFENSES? I HAVEN'T — AND REDMASK DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT THEM.



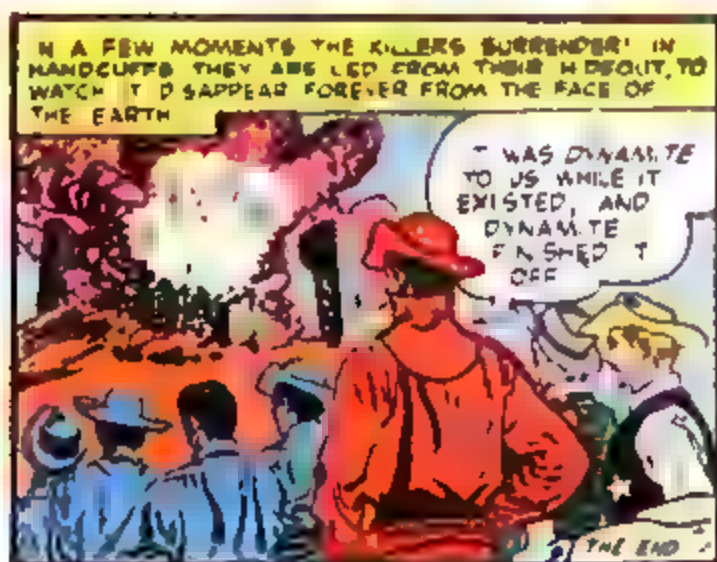
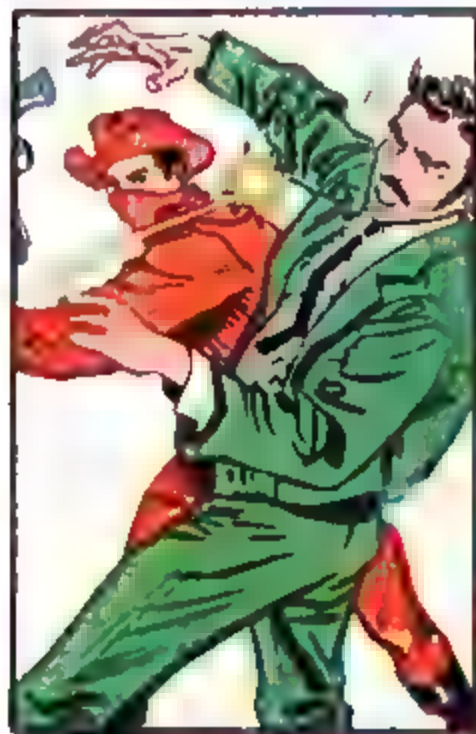
AND SO, AS REDMASK BRINGS SHERIFF GAGE AND HIS POSSE TO THE HIDEOUT COURTYARD —



THEY RUN INTO THE FIRST OF THE SECRET DEFENSES OF THE OUTLAWS CASTLE.

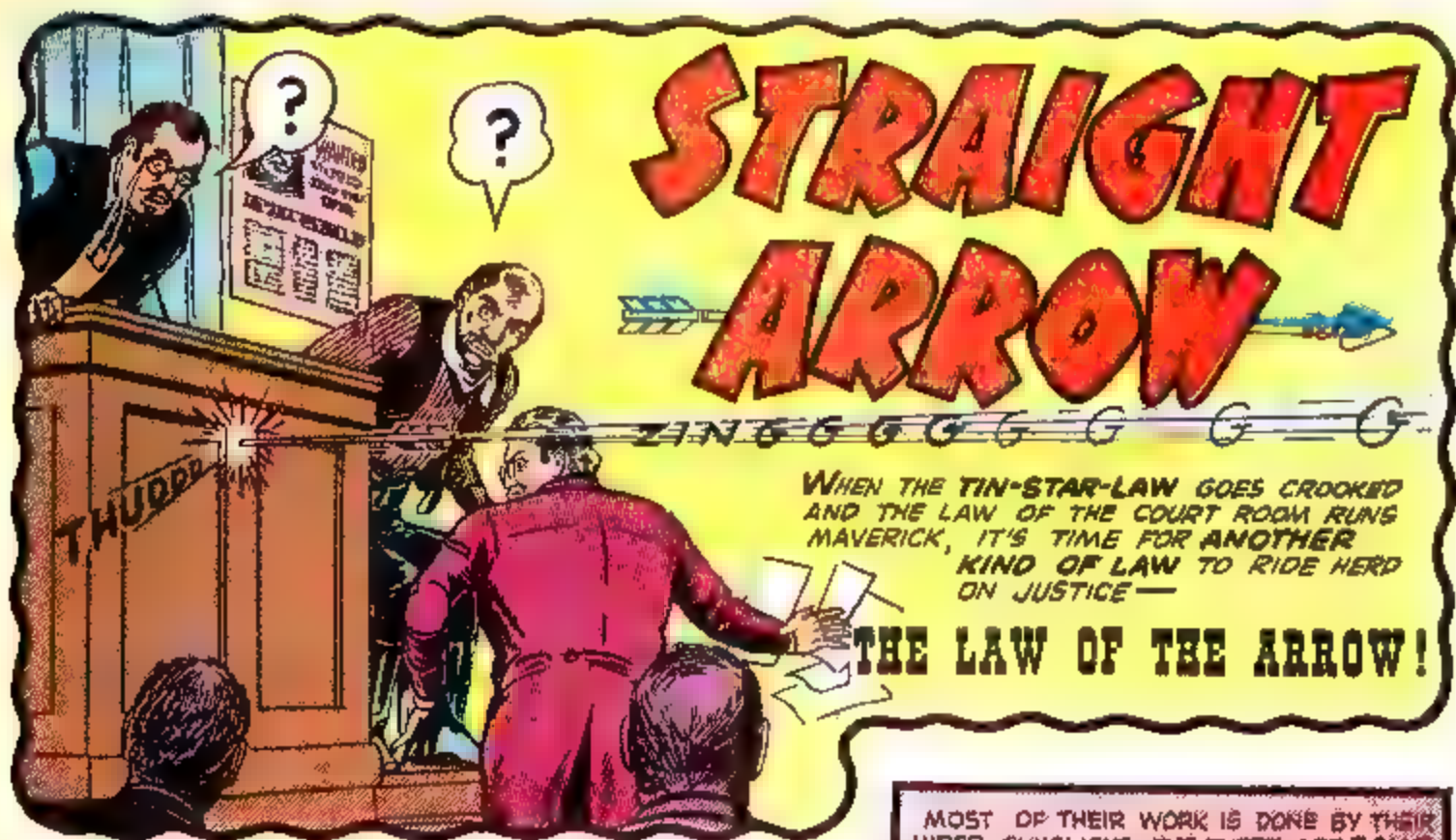
MINES! QUICK — TO THE CASTLE ITSELF! PRONTO!



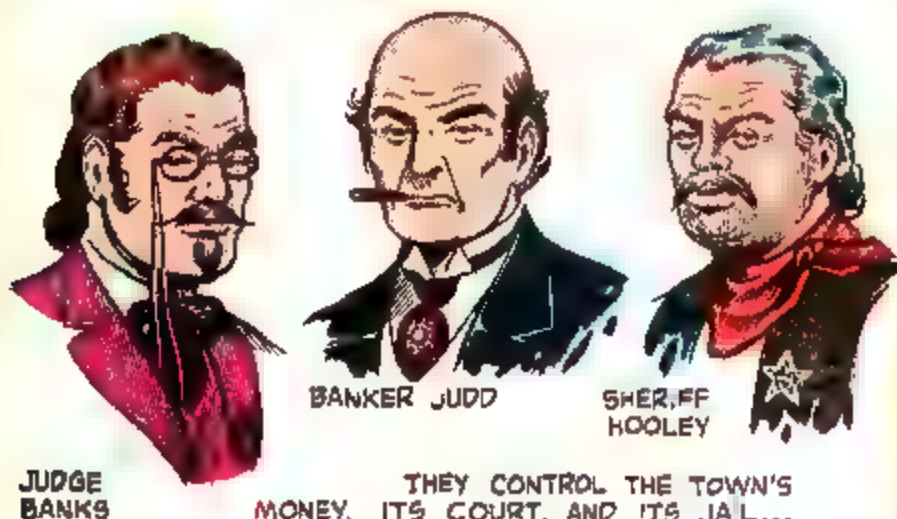


THE 10TH BIG ISSUE OF- BEST WEST

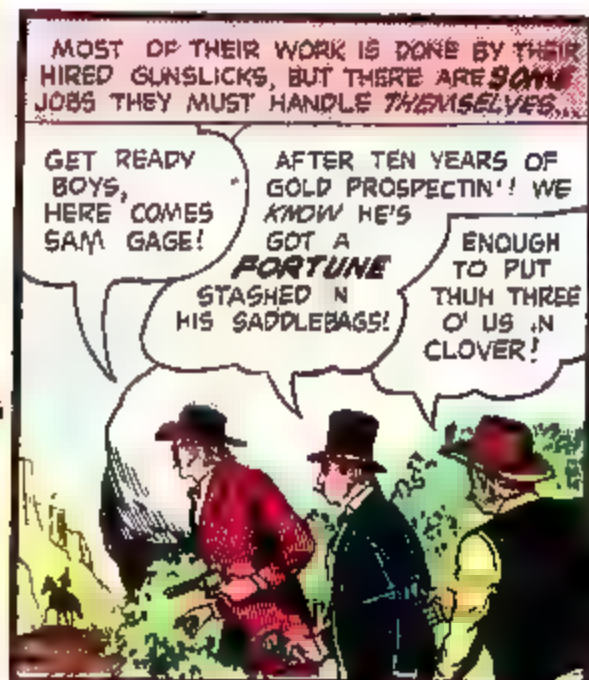


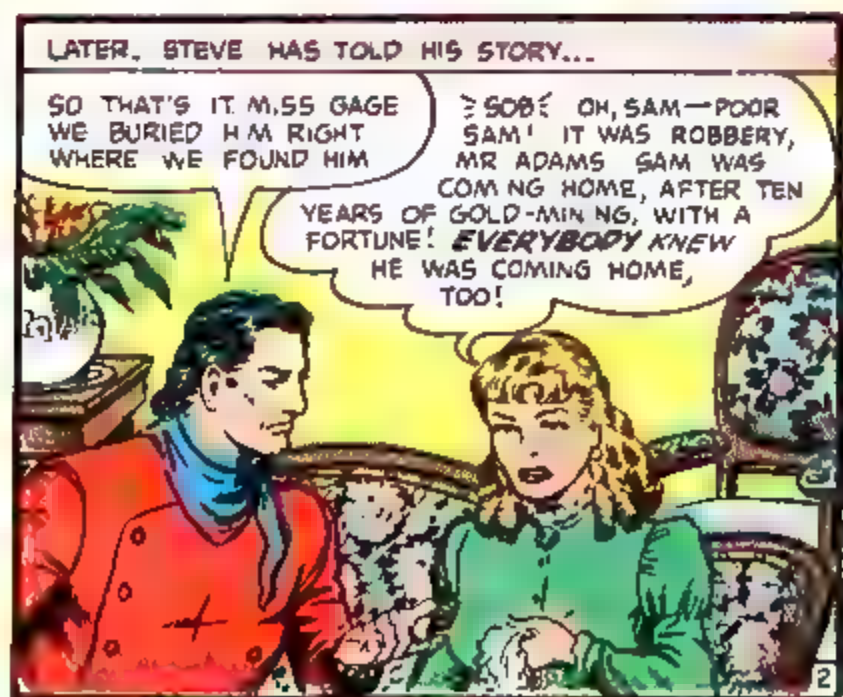
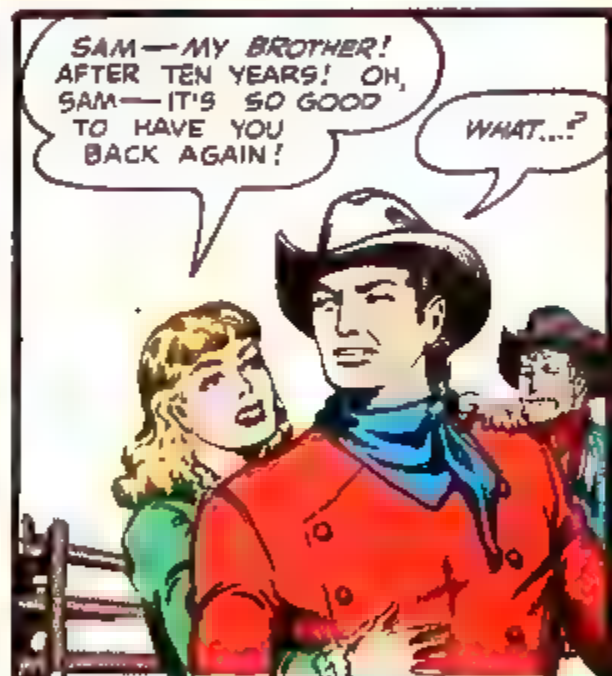
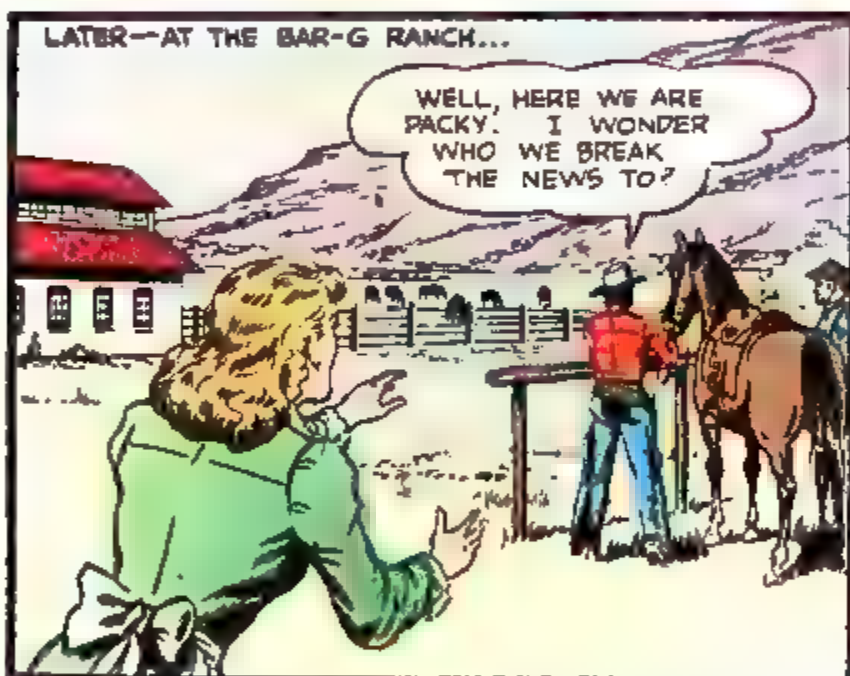
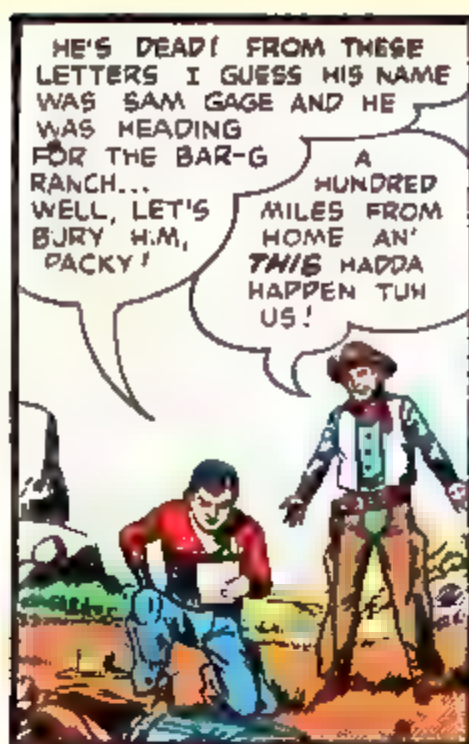
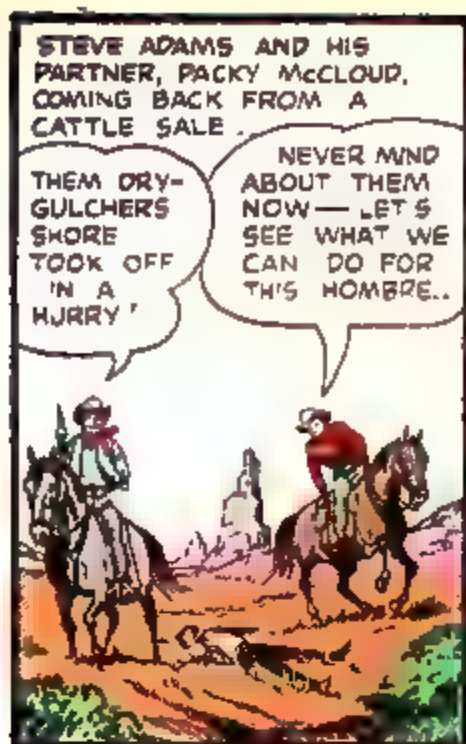


THREE MEN RULE THE TOWN OF BAD PASS!



THEY CONTROL THE TOWN'S MONEY, ITS COURT, AND ITS JAIL...





I'D LIKE TO HELP FIND THE KILLERS, MISS — AND THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO MAKE THEM SHOW THEIR HANDS! I'LL NEED YOUR HELP. FROM NOW ON, I'M YOUR BROTHER — GET IT?

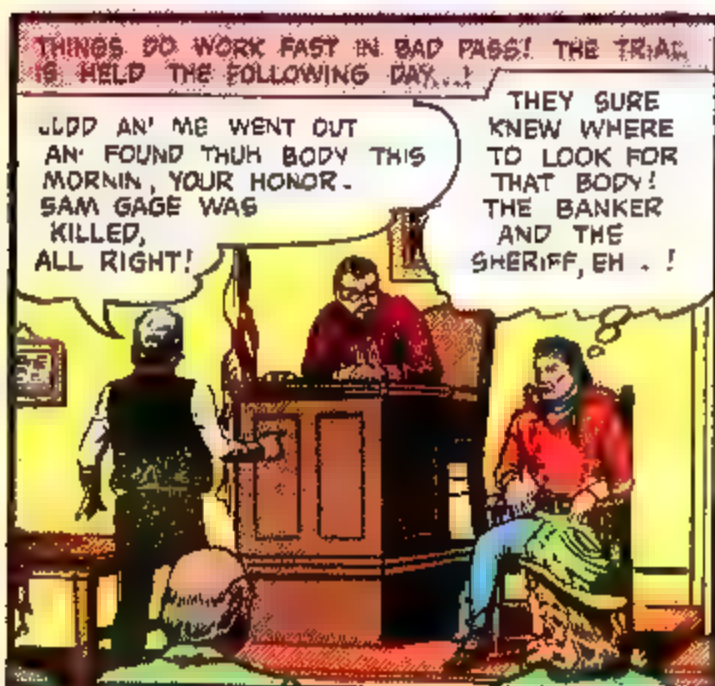
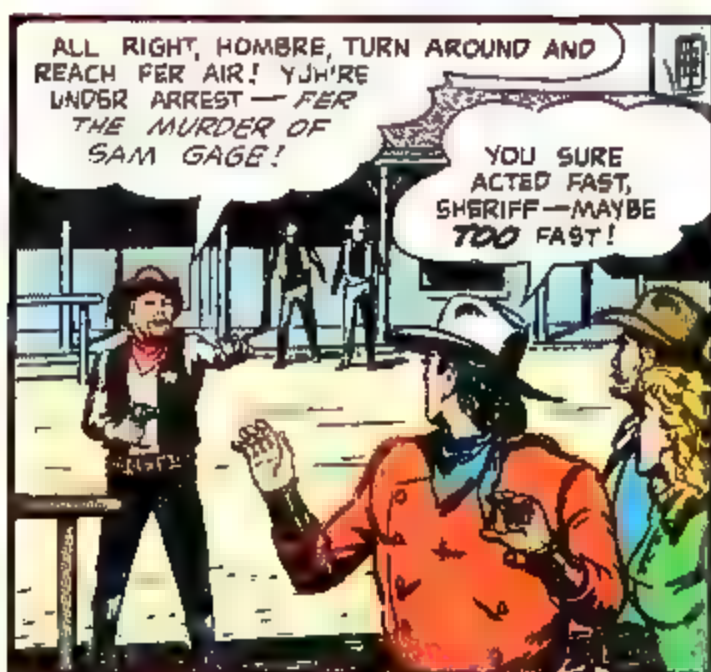
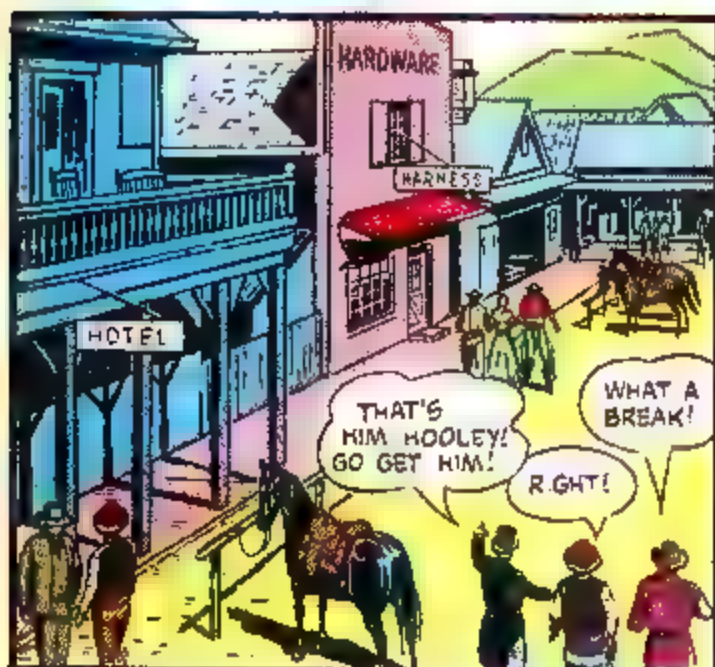
NEXT DAY...

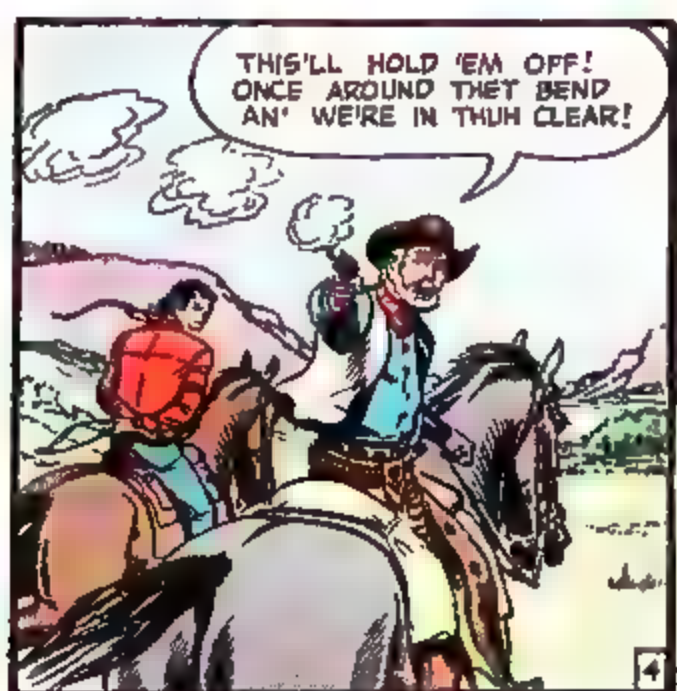
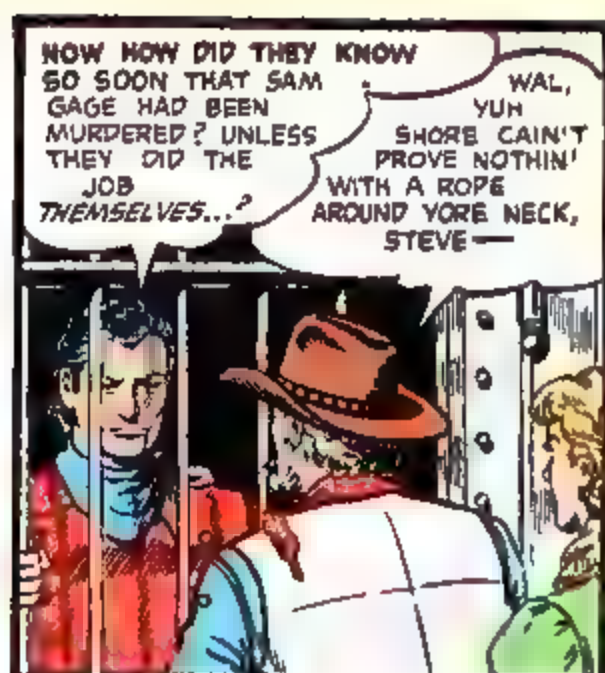
WELL IT'S GOOD TO HAVE YOU BACK HOME, SAM GAGE, THESE TEN YEARS SURE CHANGED YOU A LOT YOU CAN BE SURE THAT THIS BANK WILL BE READY TO SERVE YOU AND YOUR SISTER AS ALWAYS!

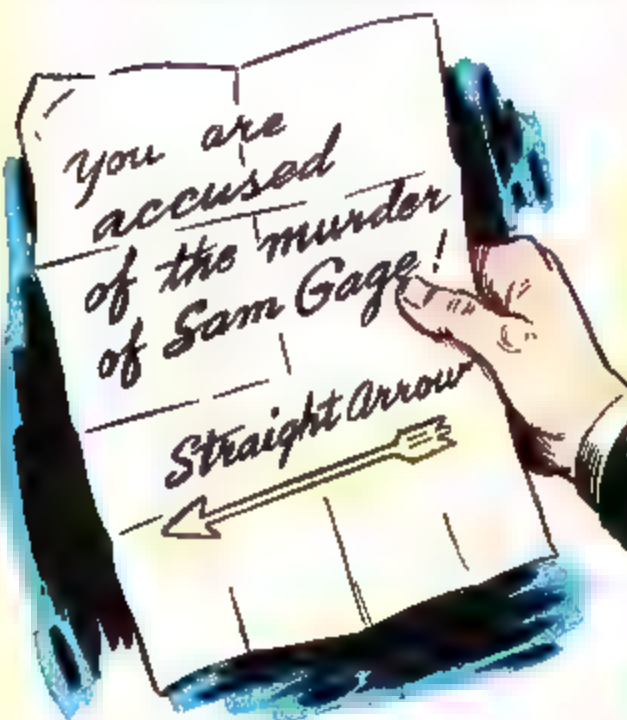
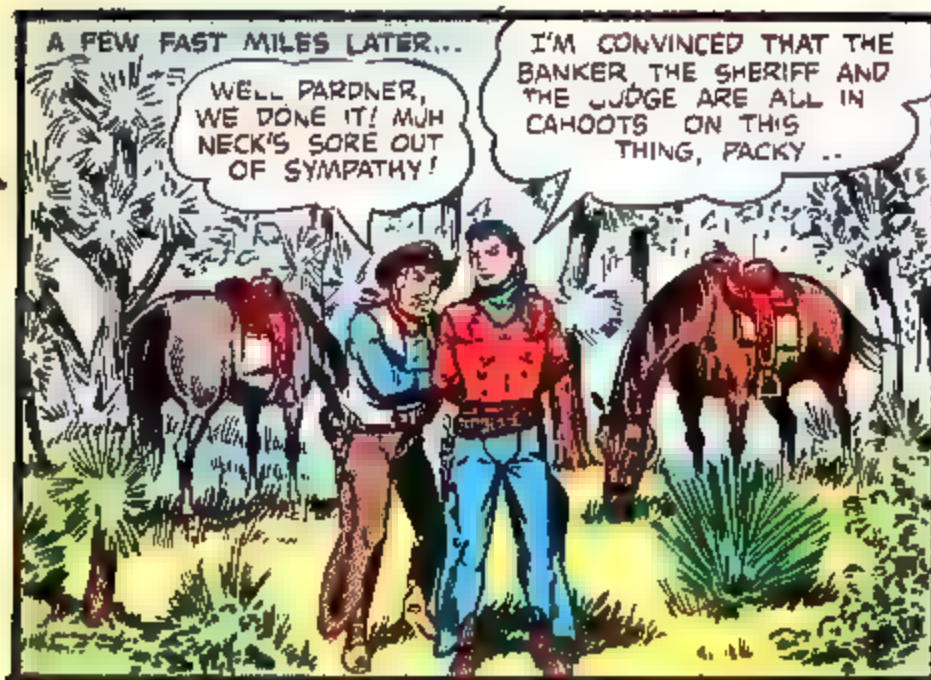
THANKS, MR JUDD. LET'S GO DOROTHY!

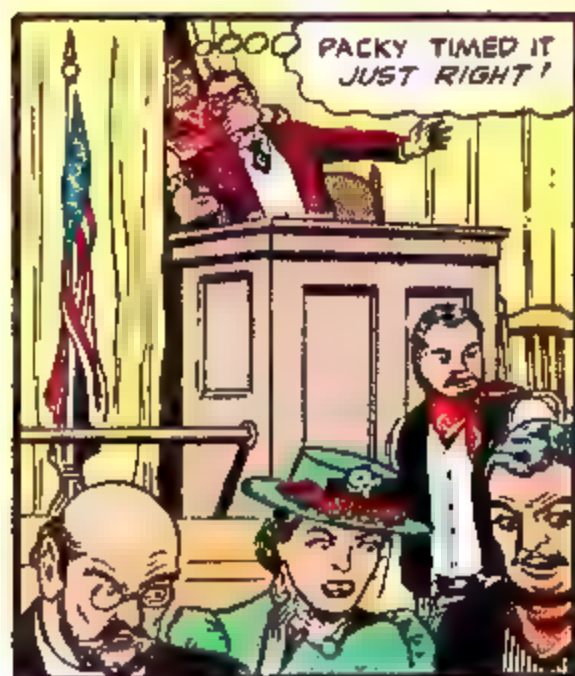
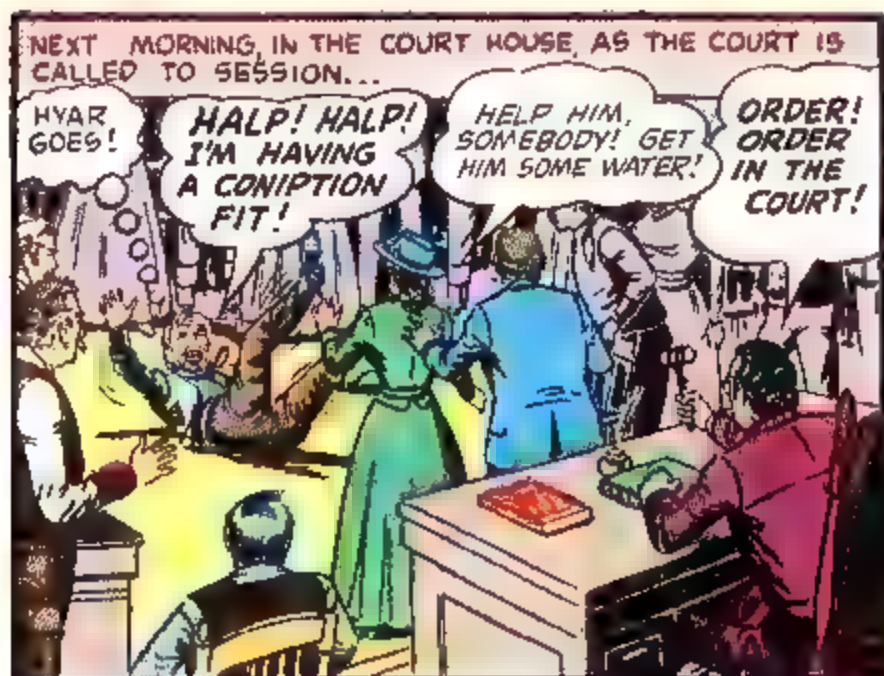
HMMMMM! **WHOEVER** THAT PHONY IS, HE'S SURE GOING TO MAKE THINGS EASIER FOR US! I BETTER GET TO HOOLEY AND BANKS RIGHT AWAY!

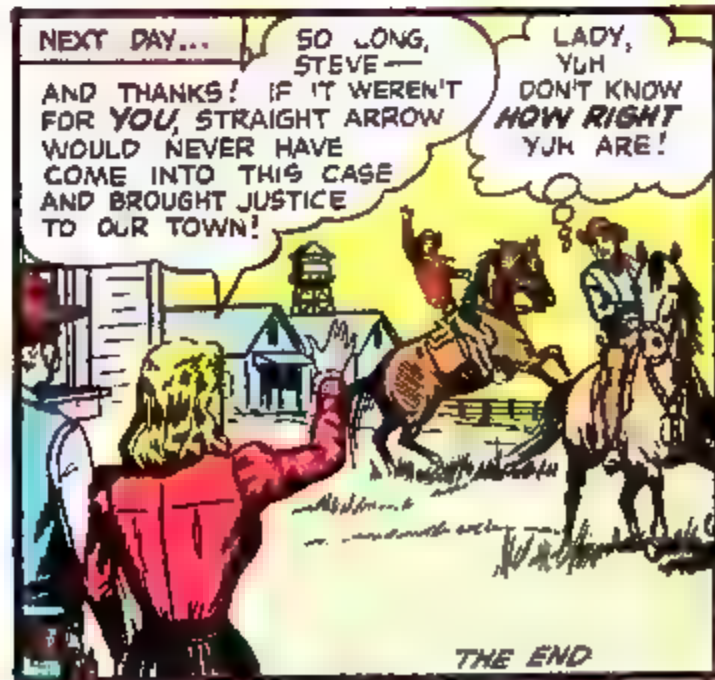
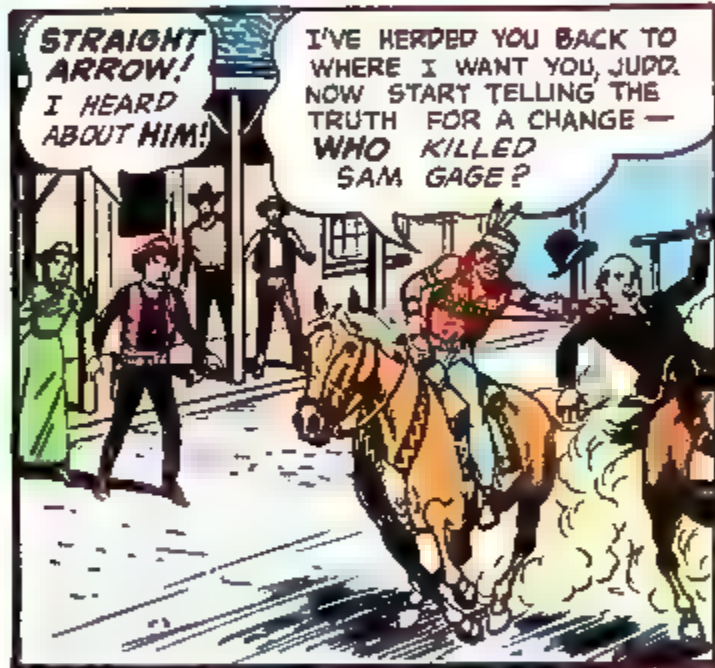
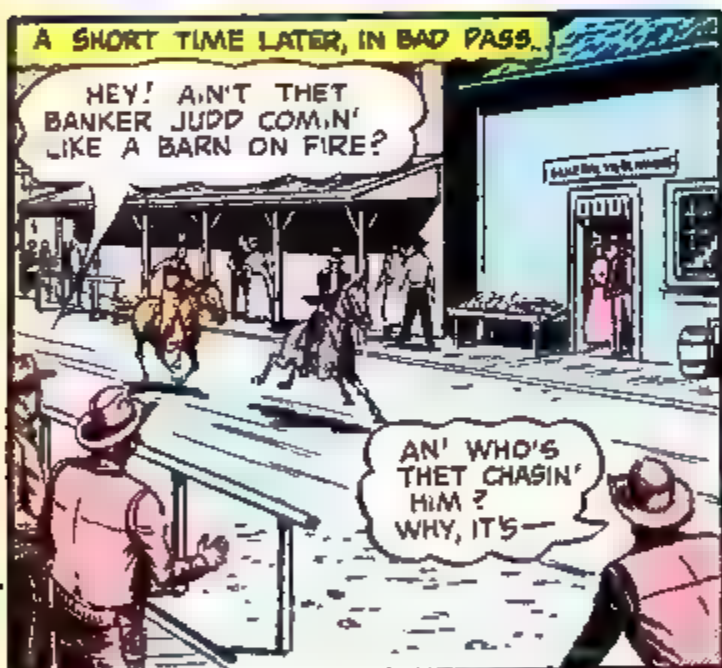
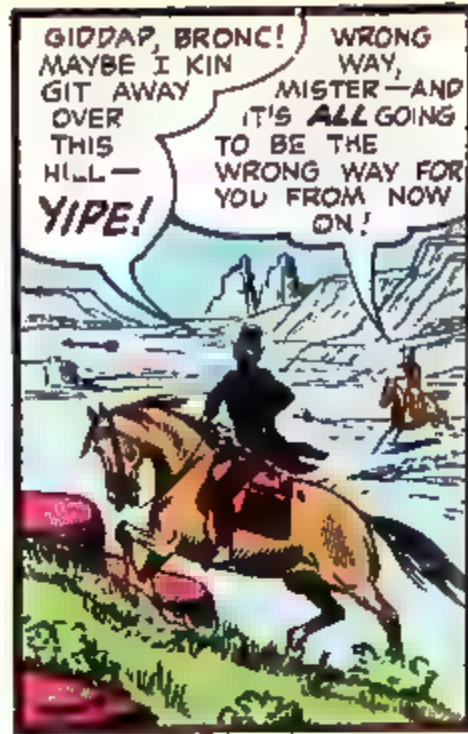
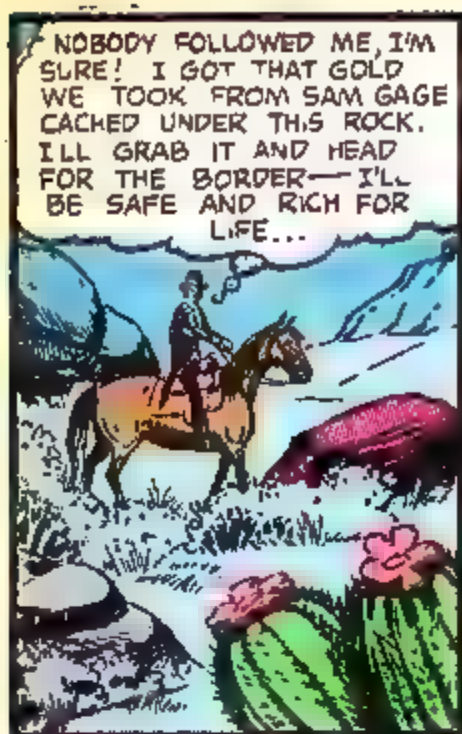
H'S DRY GOODS









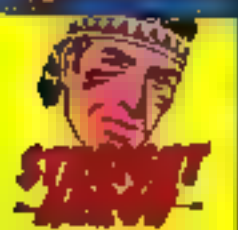




WESTERN WEST

BEST WEST

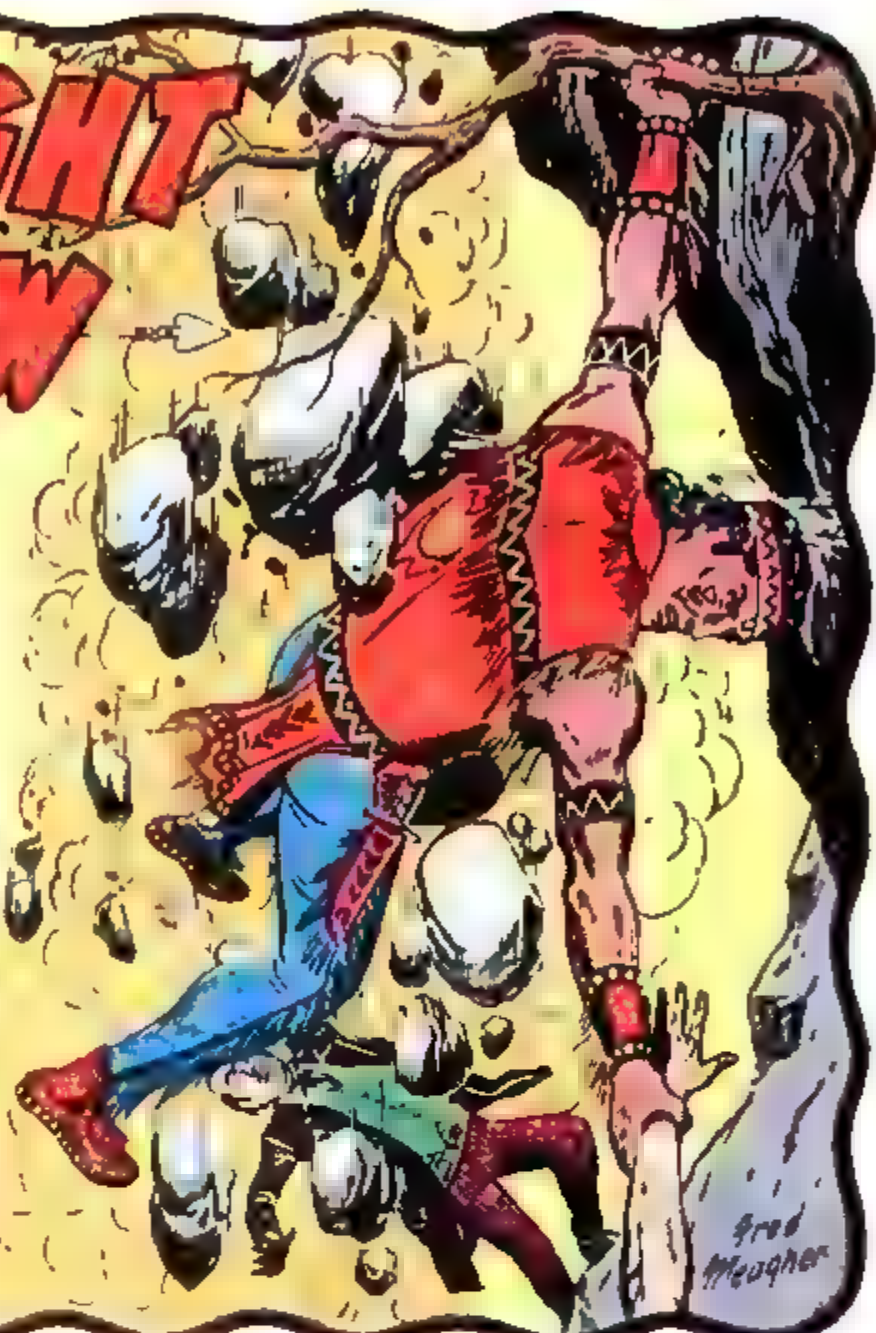
FALL
HIGHLIGHTS



STRAIGHT ARROW

THE MAN IN THE STAGE HAD A STRANGE AND VIOLENT TALE—AND HIS EYES NARROWED VENGEFULLY AS HE TOLD IT! BUT THEN HE RODE ON TOWARD AN EVEN GREATER ADVENTURE. AND A STARTLING REVELATION—FOR STRAIGHT ARROW HAD TAKEN A HAND IN THE AFFAIR OF—

**"THE HUNTER
AND
THE HUNTED!"**



THE DRIVER OF THE STAGE HAS BEEN GOING TWO DAYS WITHOUT RELIEF. HE SWAYS SLEEPILY—REINS HANGING LOOSELY FROM HIS HANDS.

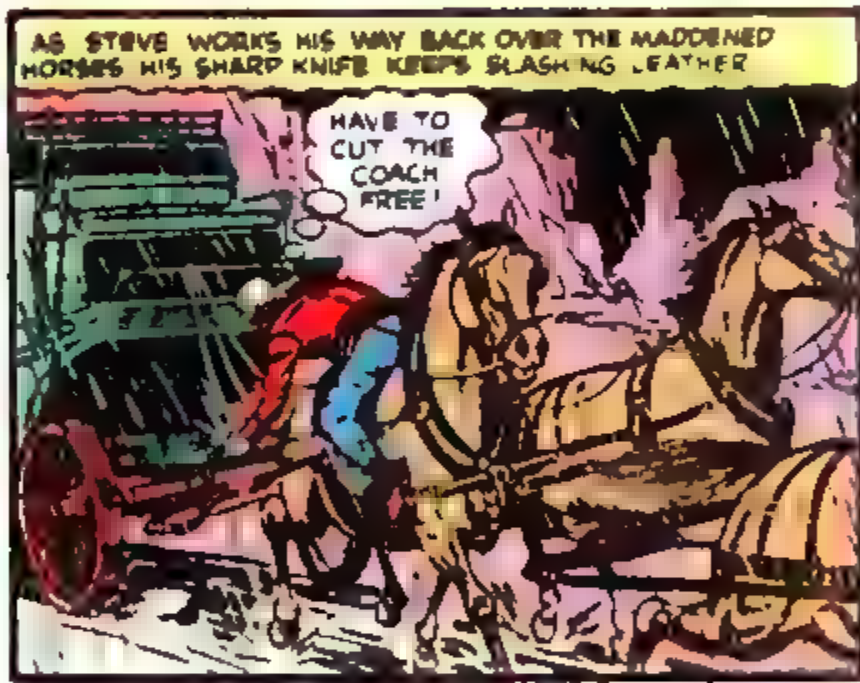
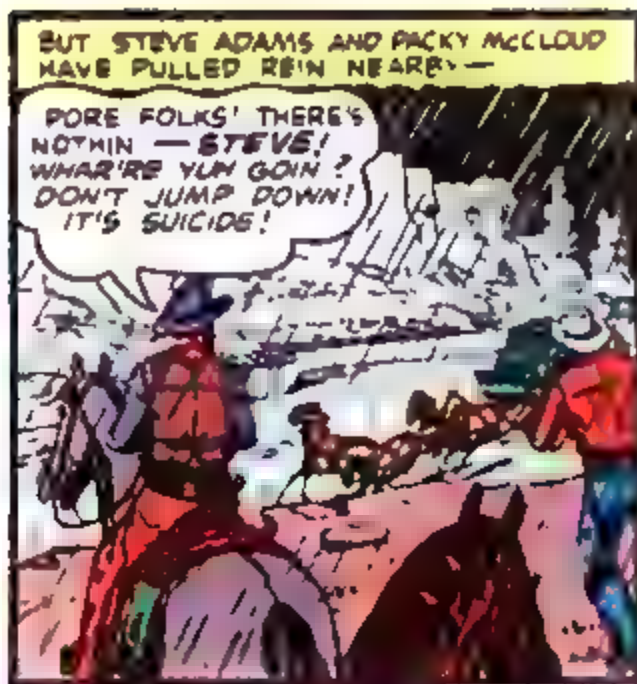


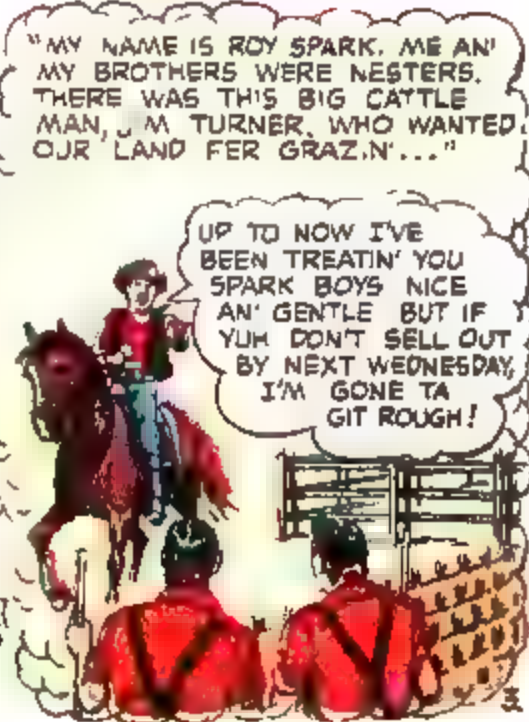
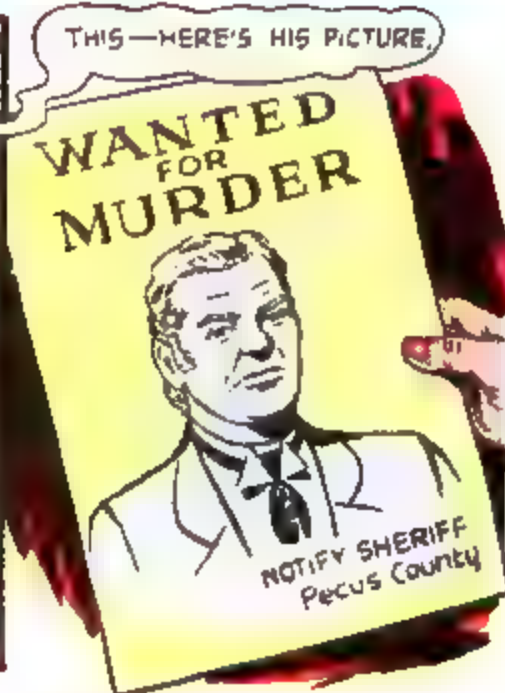
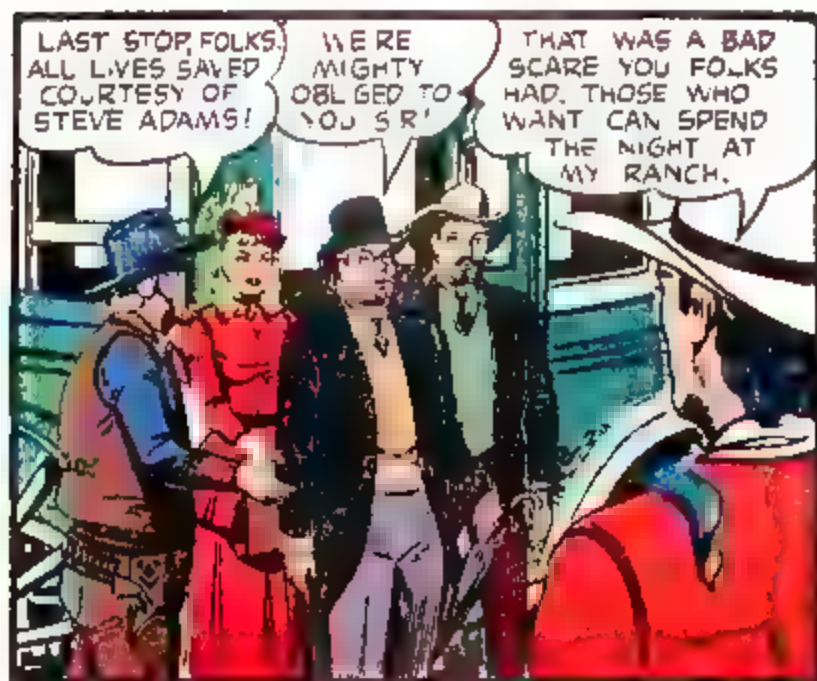
SUDDENLY A THICK BLACK CLOUD SPITS A SEARING BOLT OF LIGHTNING.

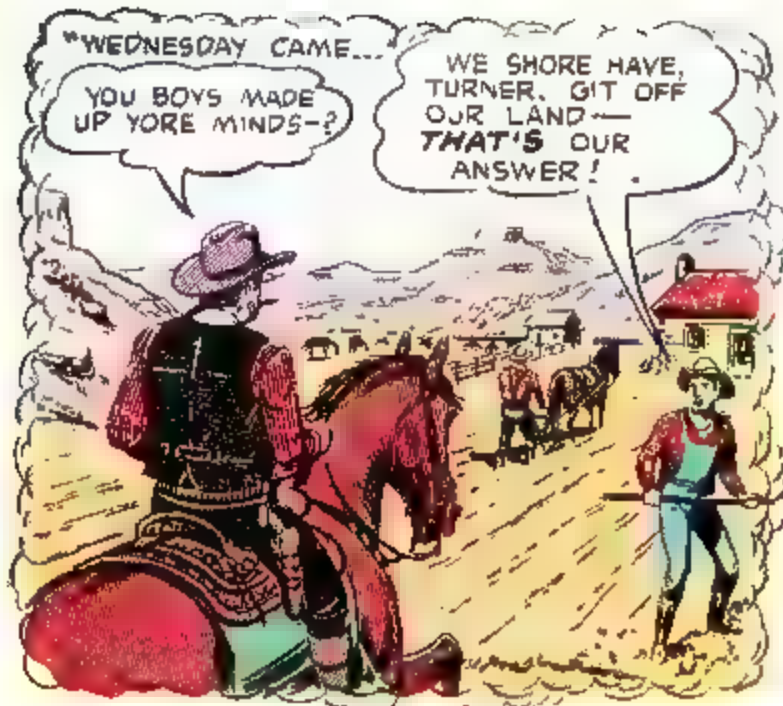


AND THE STAGE'S TEAM BOLTS FRENZIEDLY—TUMBLING THE DRIVER FROM HIS PERCH!









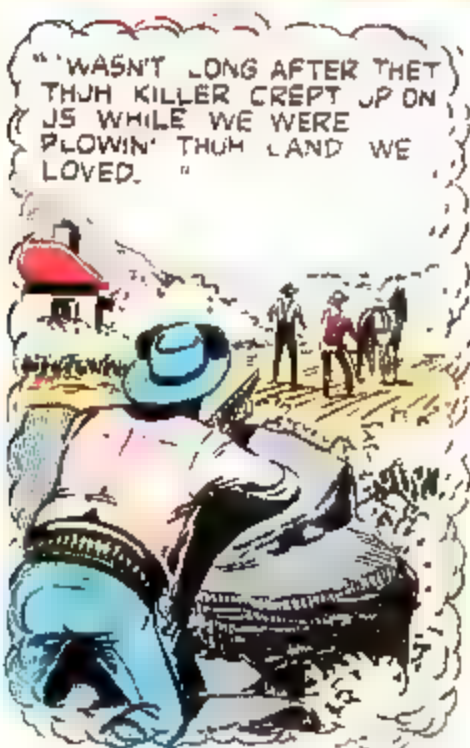
"WEDNESDAY CAME...
YOU BOYS MADE
UP YORE MINDS—?"

WE SHORE HAVE,
TURNER. GIT OFF
OUR LAND—
THAT'S OUR
ANSWER!



"THAT NIGHT TURNER HIRED HISSELF A KILLER"
HERE'S A THOUSAND FER
NOW. THERE'LL BE A
THOUSAND MORE
WHEN THE JOB
IS DONE...

THOSE
NESTERS
ARE AS
GOOD AS DEAD
RIGHT NOW!



"WASN'T LONG AFTER THET
THUH KILLER CREPT UP ON
US WHILE WE WERE
PLOWIN' THUH LAND WE
LOVED."

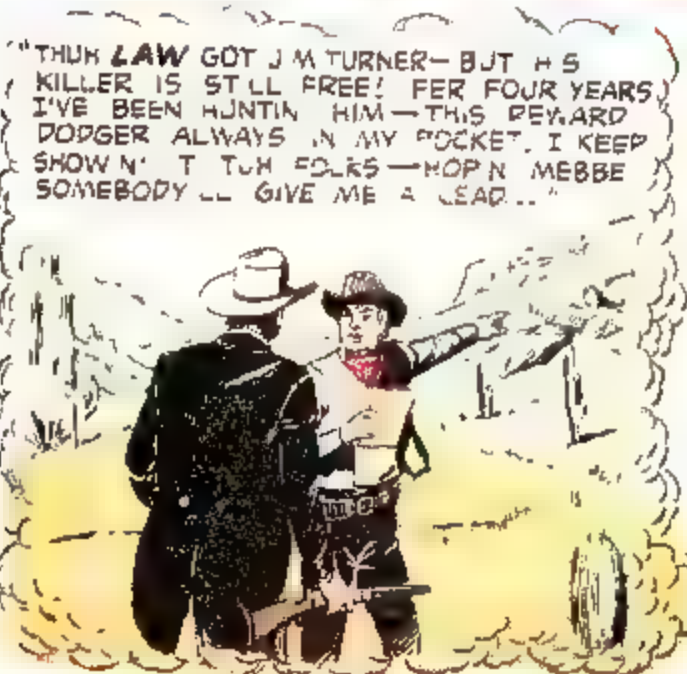


"OUR BACKS WERE TURNED
WHEN—SLOW LIKE—HE
SQUEEZED OFF HIS SHOTS..."



"HE LEFT US BOTH FER DEAD,
BUT HE WAS WRONG ABOUT
ONE OF US—MINE WAS
ONLY A SCALP WOUND..."

I'LL HUNT HIM DOWN,
BILLY! I'LL HUNT THUH
MAN WHO KILLED YUH F
IT TAKES ME TWENTY YEARS!



"THUH LAW GOT J M TURNER—BUT H S
KILLER IS ST LL FREE! FER FOUR YEARS
I'VE BEEN HUNTIN' HIM—THIS PEYARD
DODGER ALWAYS IN MY POCKET. I KEEP
SHOW N' T TUH FOLKS—HOP N MEBBE
SOMEBODY LL GIVE ME A LEAD..."



I'D LIKE TO
HELP YOU,
BUT—

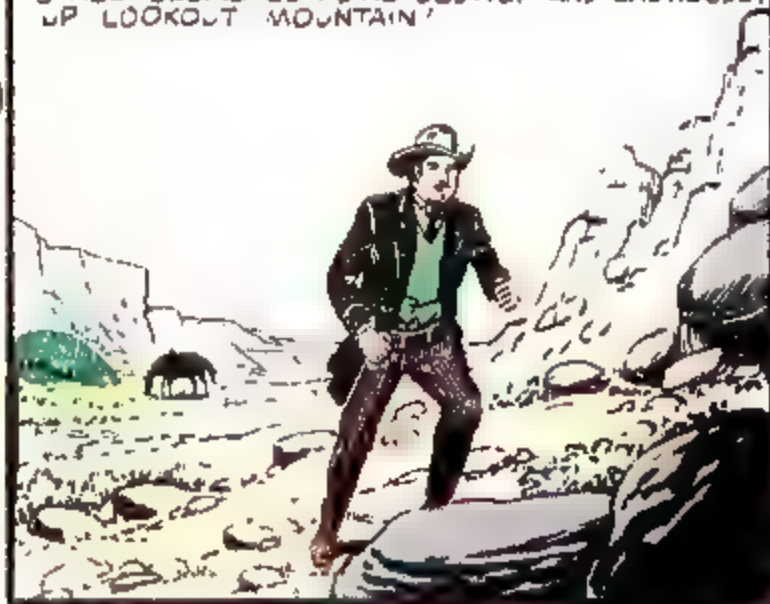
HEY! I KNOW THET FACE!
HE'S THUH CRAZY HERMIT
WHO SETTLED IN THET
CAVE LAST MONTH ON
LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN!

I SHOULD'VE KNOWN
THAT HERMIT WAS
RUNNIN' AWAY FROM
SUMPSTH N —THAT
WAY HE'S SKEERED
TO SPEAK TO FOLKS.

I'LL BE MIGHTY
OBLIGED TO YUH
MR MCLOUD, F
YUH LL SHOW ME
EXACKLY WHAR
LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN
IS...



AND SO—TWO DAYS LATER—THE MAN FROM THE
STAGE BEGINS CLIMBING SLOWLY AND CAUTIOUSLY
UP LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN!



HE IS NEAR THE
HERMIT'S CAVE NOW
CRAWLING TORTUROUSLY
FORWARD..



HIS EYES NARROW
VENGEFULLY AS HE
SEES THE HERMIT
SLOWLY.. SLOWLY..
HE DRAWS THE
KNIFE...



THE RISING BLADE
GLINTS EVILLY IN
THE SUNLIGHT...

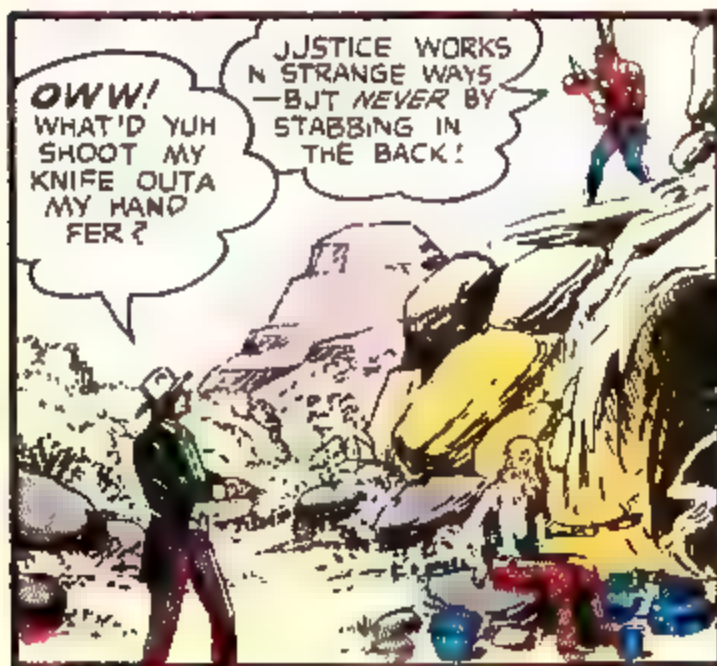


BUT SUDDENLY THE
MAN FROM THE
STAGE CRIES OUT
IN SURPRISE AND
SHOCK!



OWW!
WHAT'D YUH
SHOOT MY
KNIFE OUTA
MY HAND
FER?

JUSTICE WORKS
N STRANGE WAYS
—BUT NEVER BY
STABBING IN
THE BACK!



I AM **STRAIGHT ARROW**, A
COMANCHE WARRIOR. I HAVE
HEARD YOL HUNT A KILLER.
F THIS BE THE MAN LET
US TAKE HIM TO THE
SHERIFF TOGETHER!

WHO
ARE YOU?

YH—
THAT
MAN!
H-HIS
FACE!
I KNOW
HIS FACE!





OF COURSE!
IS HE NOT
THE BROTHER
OF THE
MAN
YOU
KILLED?

N-NO! THAT'S
NOT TRUE!
I'M REMEMB-
BERING NOW-
FOR THE FIRST
TIME I'M
REMEMBERING
EVERYTHING..

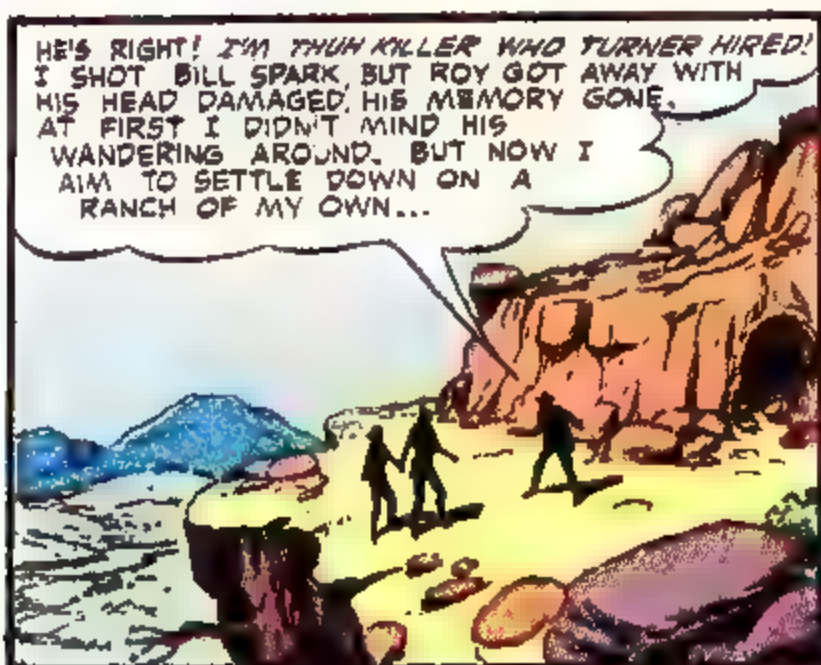


ALL THESE YEARS I'VE
BEEN WANDERING—I DIDN'T
KNOW WHO I WAS!
BUT SEEING HIS FACE
MADE ME REMEMBER...
I AM ROY SPARK!

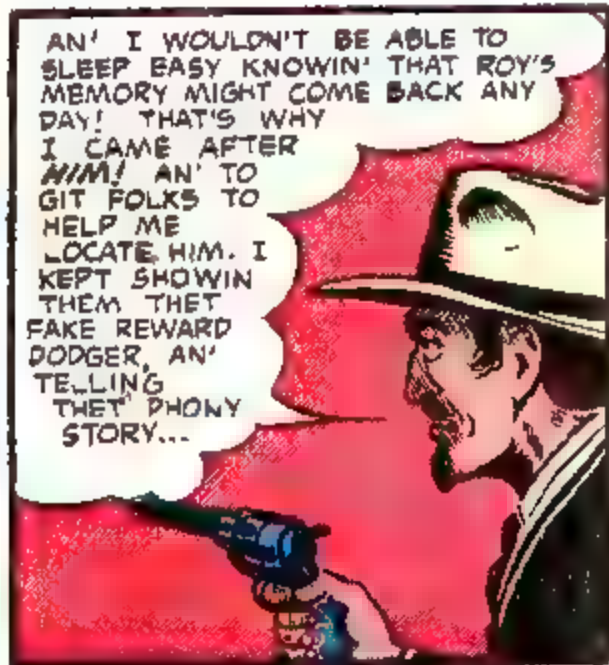


BOTH OF YUH—
GIT YORE HANDS
UP! AND MOVE
OVER TO
THUH CLIFF!

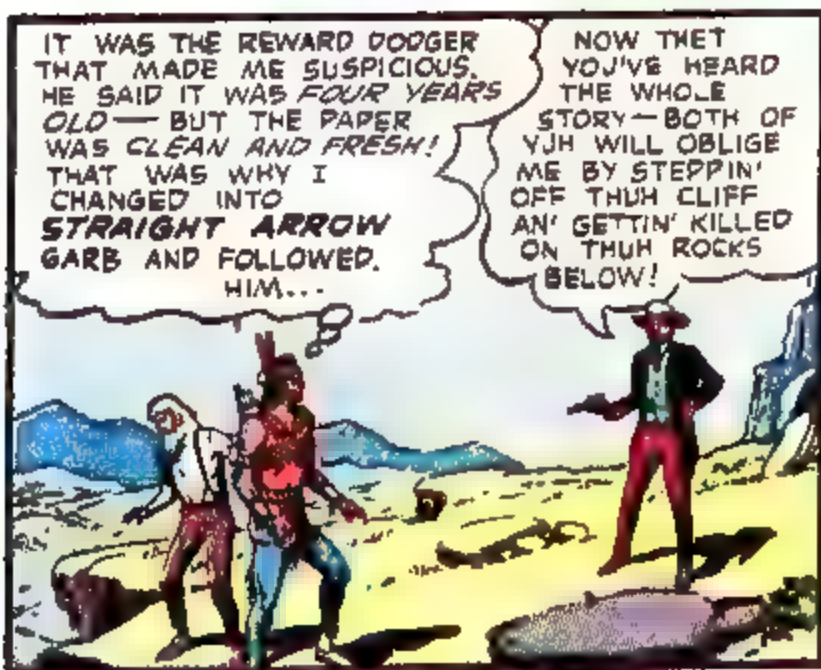
BUT
HE
SAID—



HE'S RIGHT! I'M THUH KILLER WHO TURNER HIRED!
I SHOT BILL SPARK, BUT ROY GOT AWAY WITH
HIS HEAD DAMAGED, HIS MEMORY GONE.
AT FIRST I DIDN'T MIND HIS
WANDERING AROUND, BUT NOW I
AIM TO SETTLE DOWN ON A
RANCH OF MY OWN...

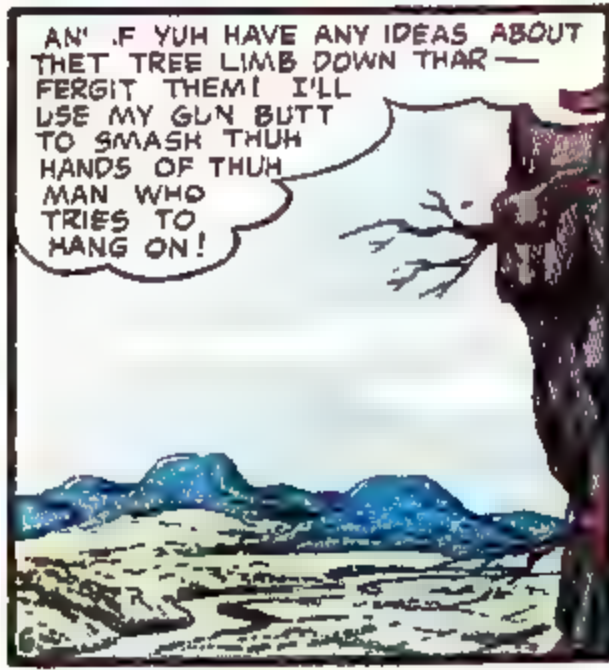


AN' I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO
SLEEP EASY KNOWIN' THAT ROY'S
MEMORY MIGHT COME BACK ANY
DAY! THAT'S WHY
I CAME AFTER
HIM! AN' TO
GIT FOLKS TO
HELP ME
LOCATE HIM. I
KEPT SHOWIN
THEM THET
FAKE REWARD
DODGER, AN'
TELLIN'
THET' PHONY
STORY...

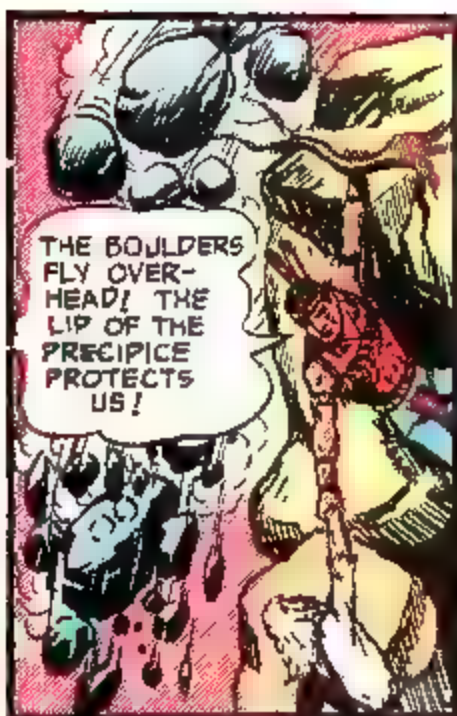
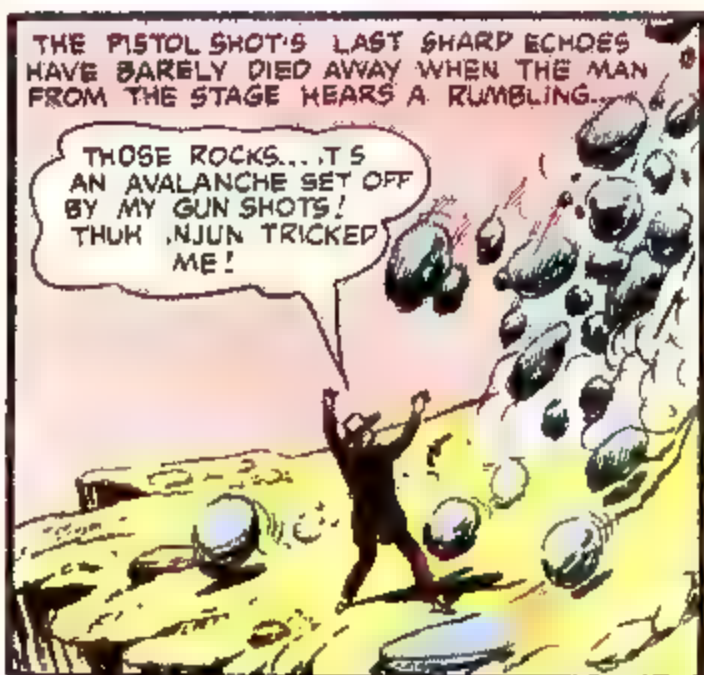
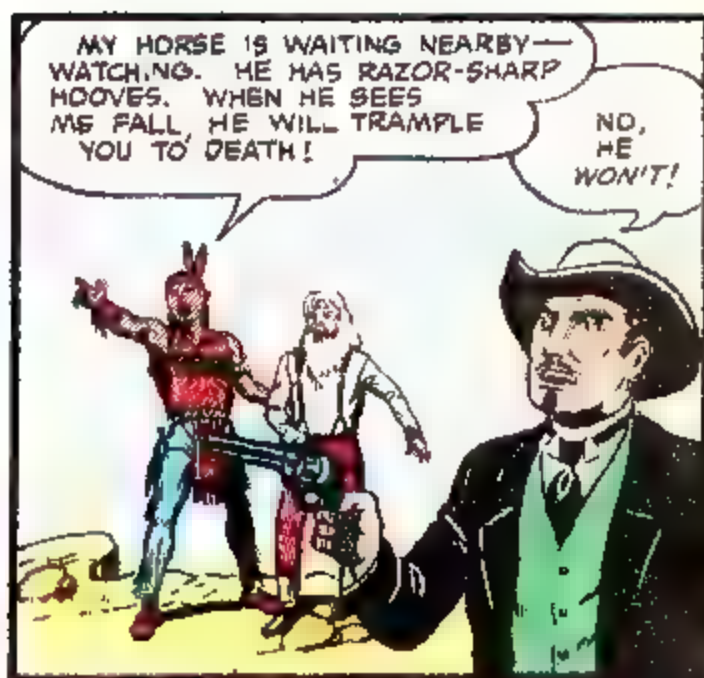
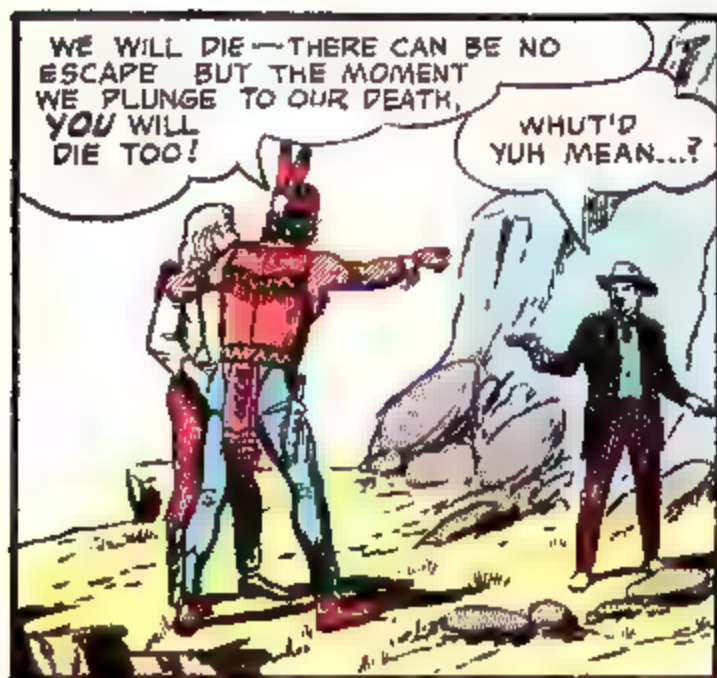


IT WAS THE REWARD DODGER
THAT MADE ME SUSPICIOUS.
HE SAID IT WAS **FOUR YEARS**
OLD— BUT THE PAPER
WAS CLEAN AND FRESH!
THAT WAS WHY I
CHANGED INTO
STRAIGHT ARROW
GARB AND FOLLOWED
HIM...

NOW THET
YOU'VE HEARD
THE WHOLE
STORY— BOTH OF
YUH WILL OBLIGE
ME BY STEPPIN'
OFF THUH CLIFF
AN' GETTIN' KILLED
ON THUH ROCKS
BELOW!



AN' IF YUH HAVE ANY IDEAS ABOUT
THET TREE LIMB DOWN THAR—
FERGIT THEM! I'LL
USE MY GUN BUTT
TO SMASH THUH
HANDS OF THUH
MAN WHO
TRIES TO
HANG ON!



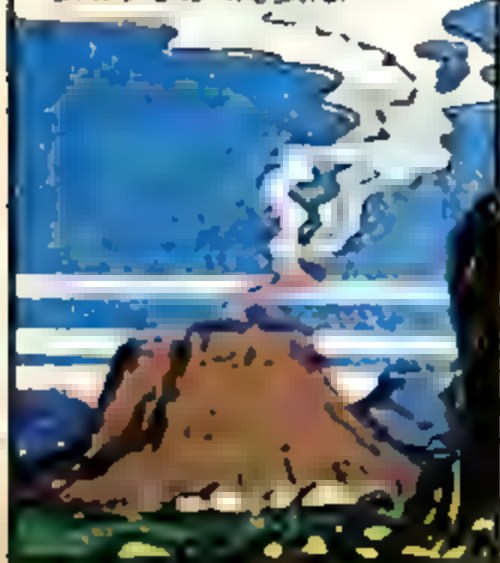
STRAIGHT ARROW

THE PLAINS INDIANS PAINTED THEIR BODIES AS THEY DID THEIR SHIELDS AND TEPEES—AND EACH PAIR OF PAINT STOOD FOR SOME DEED OF VALOR. OF ALL COMANCHE WARRIORS NONE BEAR SO MANY MARKS AS **STRAIGHT ARROW**—AND NONE ROUSES THE HATE OF **FEATHER-HAT** SO MUCH! FOR FEATHER-HAT KNOWS THE KEEN BITE OF JEALOUSY, FEELING THAT HE HIMSELF SHOULD BE PRIVILEGED TO WEAR—

the MARKS of a WARRIOR



THIS IS THE TALE OF STRAIGHT ARROW'S MARKINGS! THE **YELLOW SLASH** ON HIS ARM SPEAKS TO THE COMANCHE EYE OF THE DAY WHEN A THIN BLACK PLUME OF SMOKE ROSE FROM A SANDSTONE MESAROP—



IN ANSWER TO THAT SIGNAL—!

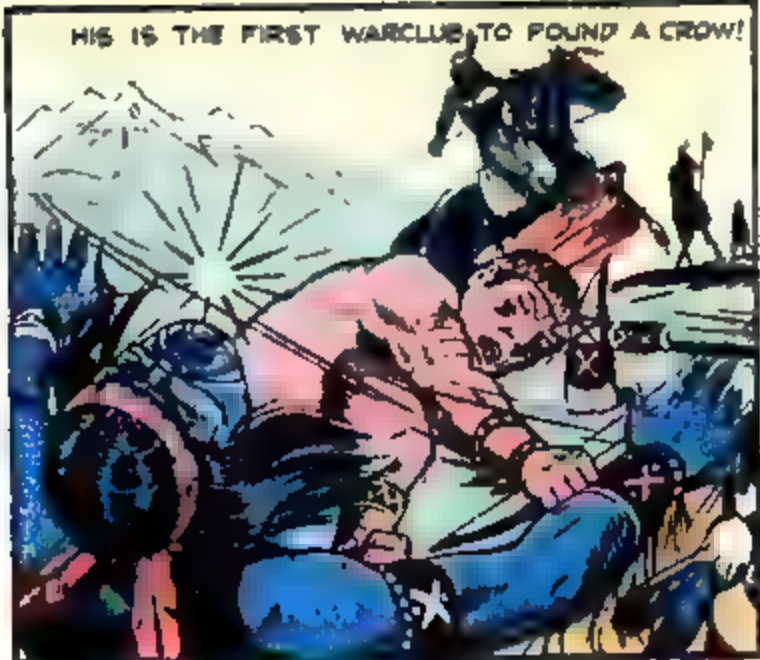
CROW PONY THIEVES!
HYAAA-HA!



HIS IS THE FIRST HAND TO TOUCH THE
ENEMY, THUS COUNTING A COUP ..



HIS IS THE FIRST WARCLUB TO POUND A CROW!



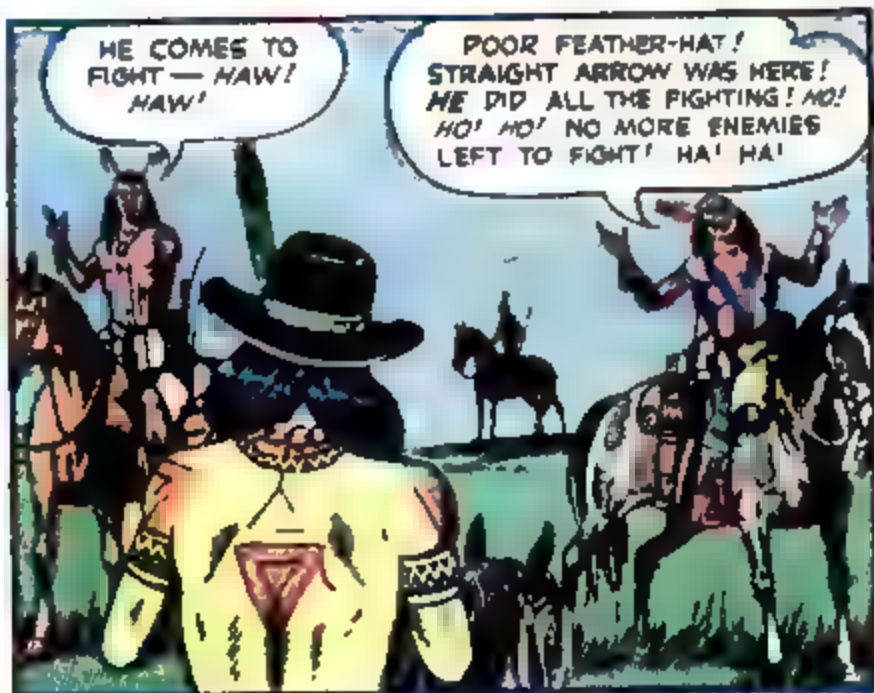
SO THAT—BY THE TIME YOUNG
FEATHER-HAT RIDES UP—THE Foe IS
ALREADY DEFEATED!

WHERE ARE THEY? I SENT
THE SMOKE SIGNALS THAT
WARNED OF THE RAIDERS. I
COME TO FIGHT THEM!



HE COMES TO
FIGHT — HAW!
HAW!

POOR FEATHER-HAT!
STRAIGHT ARROW WAS HERE!
HE DID ALL THE FIGHTING! NO!
HO! HO! NO MORE ENEMIES
LEFT TO FIGHT! HA! HA!



THE **RED SUNBURST** ON
HIS CHEST TELLS OF THE OSAGE
RAID IN THE YEAR OF THE
FROZEN WOMAN...

OSAGE WAR PARTY—
RAIDING THE BUFFALO
HUNTERS! AIIYA!
OSAGE WAR PARTY!



WAIT FOR ME!
MY PONY IS
EXHAUSTED! I
MUST ROPE
A FRESH ONE
— WAIT!

NO TIME TO
WAIT,
FEATHER-HAT!



THE WINTER SNOWS FLY EARLY!
THE BUFFALO HERDS ARE MOVING
FAST! IF WE LOSE THE MEAT OF
THIS HUNT—OUR PEOPLE WILL
STARVE IN THE TIME OF THE
FALLING SNOW!!



MAD WITH RAGE FEATHER-HAT FLOGS HIS NEW PONY INTO THE SNOWFLAKES

ON THAT PALOMINO, STRAIGHT ARROW WILL GET THERE AHEAD OF ME! HE WILL GET ALL THE GLORY!



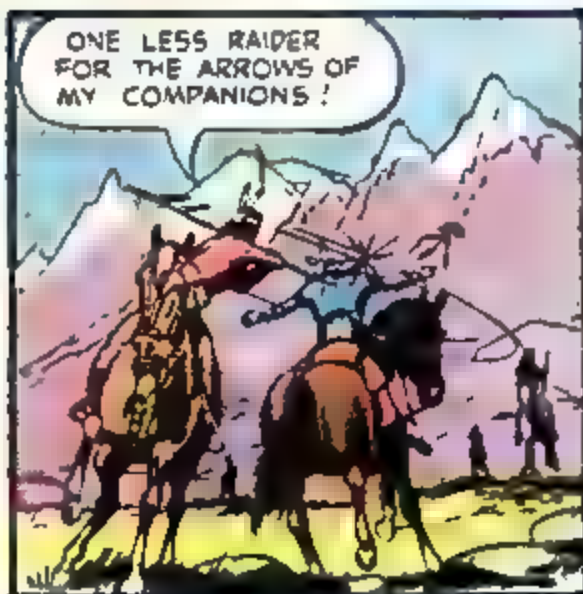
AFTER THEIR SUDDEN ATTACK THE OSAGE WAR PARTY BURDENS ITSELF WITH STOLEN BUFFALO HIDES AND MEAT—



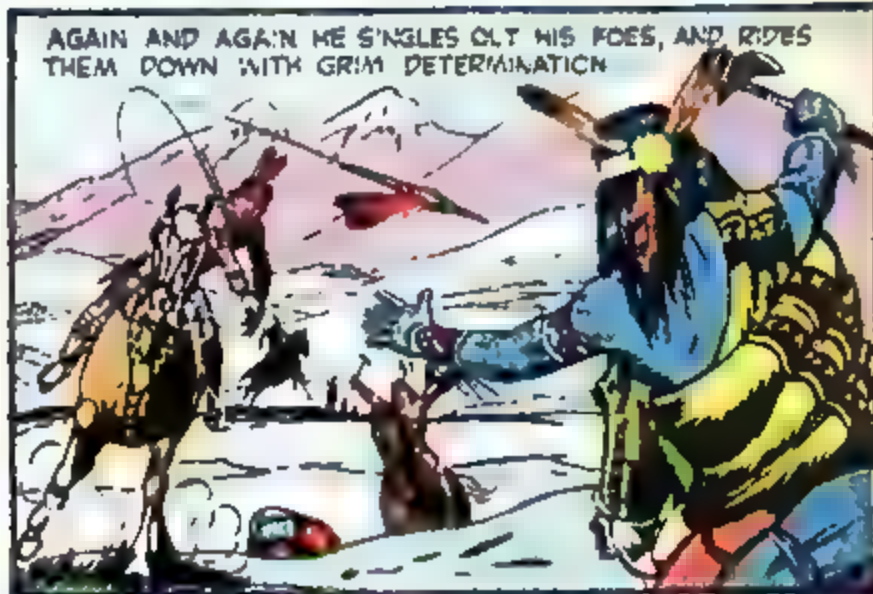
—AND FIND THAT BUFFALO MEAT, THOUGH GOOD FOR THE STOMACH, PREVENTS A MAN FROM FIGHTING AS WELL AS HE SHOULD!



ONE LESS RAIDER FOR THE ARROWS OF MY COMPANIONS!

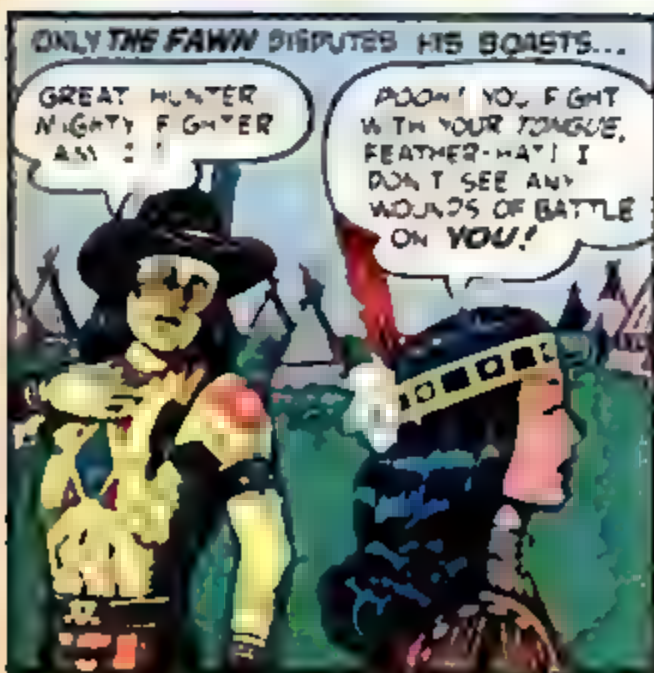
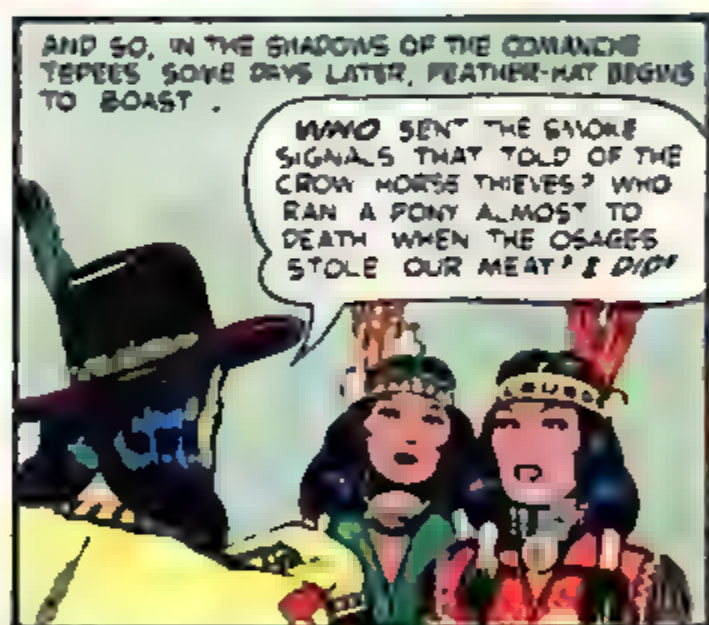
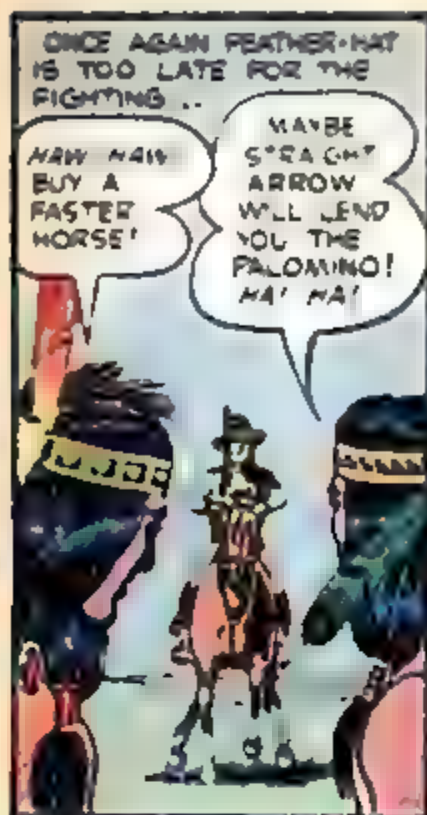


AGAIN AND AGAIN HE SINGLES OUT HIS FOES, AND RIDES THEM DOWN WITH GRIM DETERMINATION



BUT WHEN A CARELESSLY TOSSED COMANCHE WARCLUB FINDS HIS HEAD, THE MIGHTY WAR CHIEF FALLS UNDER A DOZEN FLAILING PONY HOOFES!





FUELED BY THE HATE THAT BURNS IN HIM, FEATHER-HAT EXCELS IN WRESTLING —

THUS WOULD I TREAT STRAIGHT ARROW, IF HE DARED MEET ME HAND TO HAND!



—AND IN ARCHERY!

NO COMANCHE HAS SUCH A STEADY HAND OR A BETTER EYE FOR A TARGET—NOT EVEN STRAIGHT ARROW!



AS HE LIES WITH PAIN IN HIS INJURED LEG, STRAIGHT ARROW FROWNS AT FEATHER-HAT'S BRAGGART WORDS...

THAT BAG OF WIND!

NO, STRAIGHT ARROW! YOU MUST NOT WALK!



NO, BRAGGART! I HEAR YOUR WORDS! SO YOU CAN WRESTLE, CAN YOU? WELL — I WILL WRESTLE YOU!

WHAT?



FOR A MOMENT, FEATHER-HAT FEELS HIS INSIDES CONGEAL IN A FROZEN KNOT! AND THEN—

FOR ONCE I SHALL REVEAL THE TRUTH TO OUR PEOPLE—THAT I DO ALL THE WORK—AND YOU GET ALL THE GLORY!

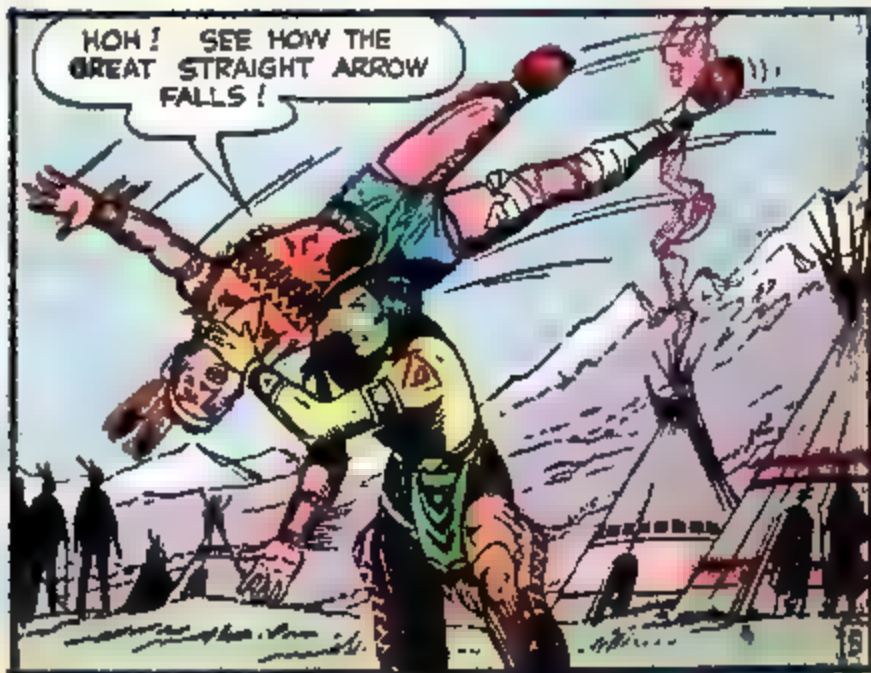


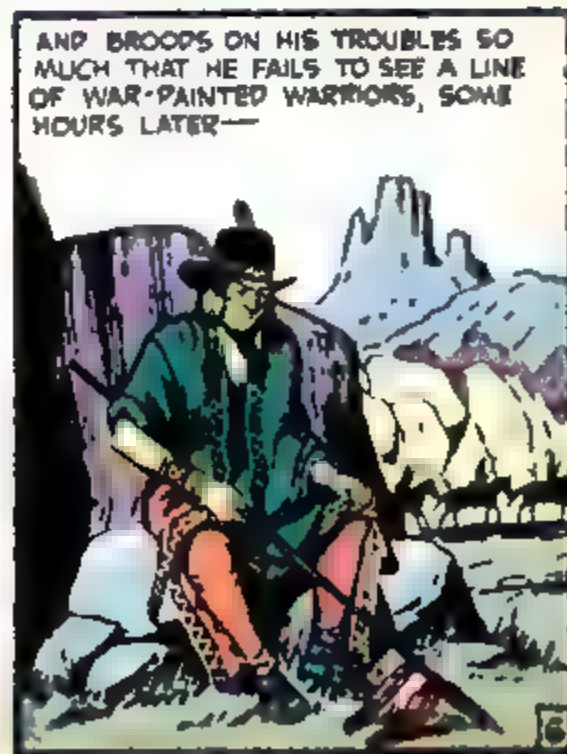
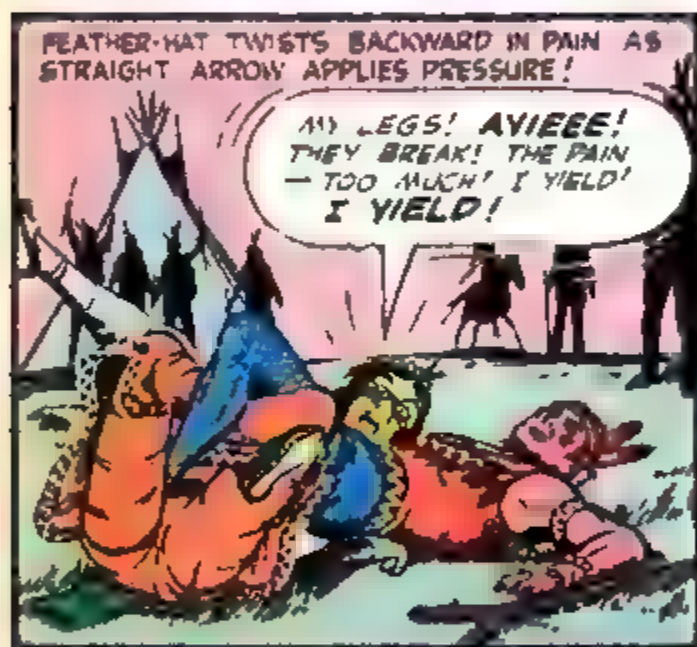
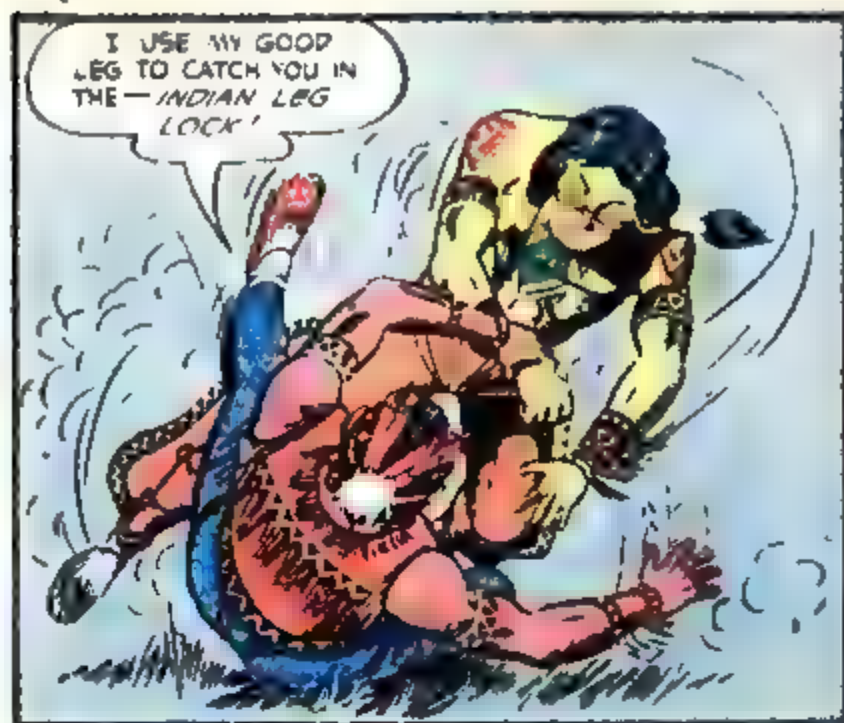
LIKE A STRIKING SNAKE, WITHOUT A SOUND OF WARNING FEATHER-HAT LEAPS FORWARD!

I'LL SHOW YOU WHICH IS THE BETTER MAN!



HOH! SEE HOW THE GREAT STRAIGHT ARROW FALLS!





the DURANGO KID

HERE'S A NEW DANGER—BORN IN GREED NOURISHED IN MADNESS AND BROUGHT TO A CRAZY, SHREKING END THAT BLASTS THE EARTH APART! BUT A WOMAN IS IN DANGER AND A MURDER MUST BE SOLVED AND THE DURANGO KID RIDES THE TRAIL OF COURAGE TO FACE

**BLASTS
BOOM!**

KAR-ROOOOOM!



JOHN BELFI

DYNAMITE IS DANGEROUS STUFF

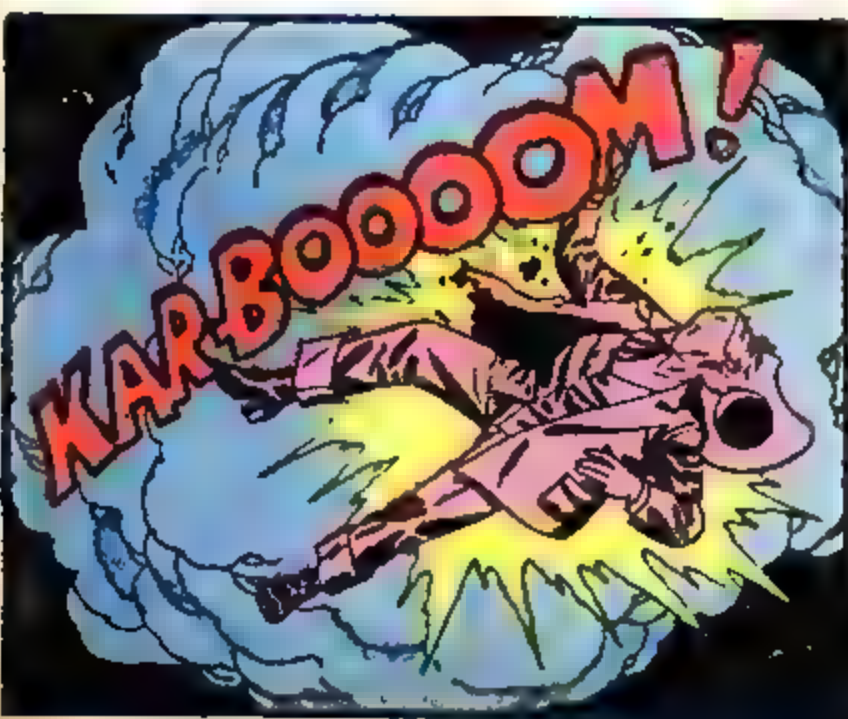


IF YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO HANDLE IT!

I'VE GOT TO HAND IT TO YOU, GODDARD—YOU KNOW HOW TO HANDLE YOUR DYNAMITE THAT WAS A FINE JOB. GLAD I HIRED YOU

I DO MY BEST, MR. MORRIS.





MANY MONTHS LATER.. DURANGO, RETURNING FROM A SUCCESSFUL MANHUNT, PASSES BY THE ABANDONED RAILROAD TUNNEL..

TOO BAD! A RAILROAD THROUGH THAT TUNNEL WOULD HAVE BEEN A GOOD THING BUT WADE MORRIS STILL LIES BURIED UNDER TONS OF ROCK, AND HIS COMPANY'S GONE BANKRUPT.



YES, THAT WAS A SAD ACCIDENT—HEY! NOW WHAT CAN THAT GIRL BE DOING DOWN THERE?



A BULLET! SOMEBODY—SOMEBODY'S SHOOTING AT ME!



DURANGO SNAPS INTO ACTION!

BLAZES! SOMEBODY'S SHOOTING AT HER FROM THOSE ROCKS!...LET'S GO RAIDER! I'LL KEEP HIM PINNED DOWN WITH MY FIRE

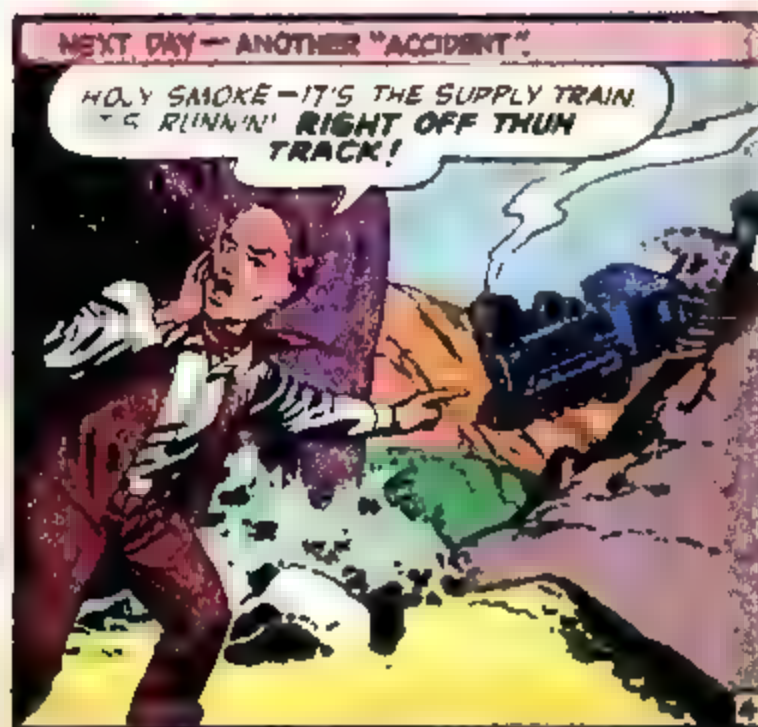


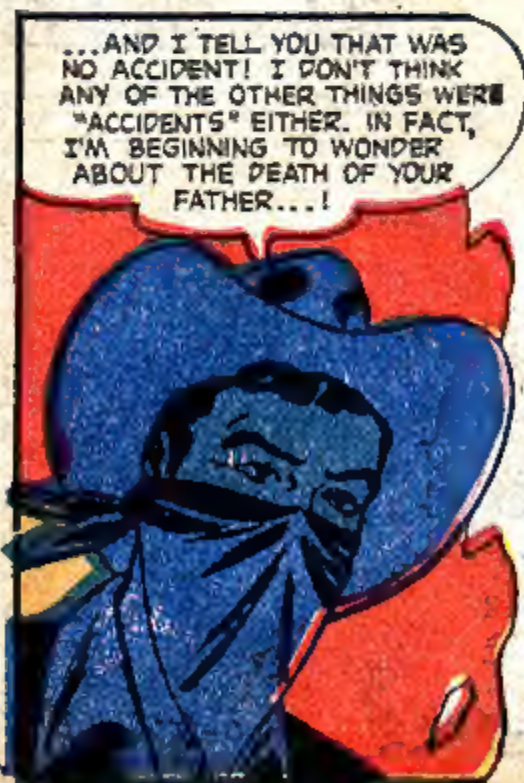
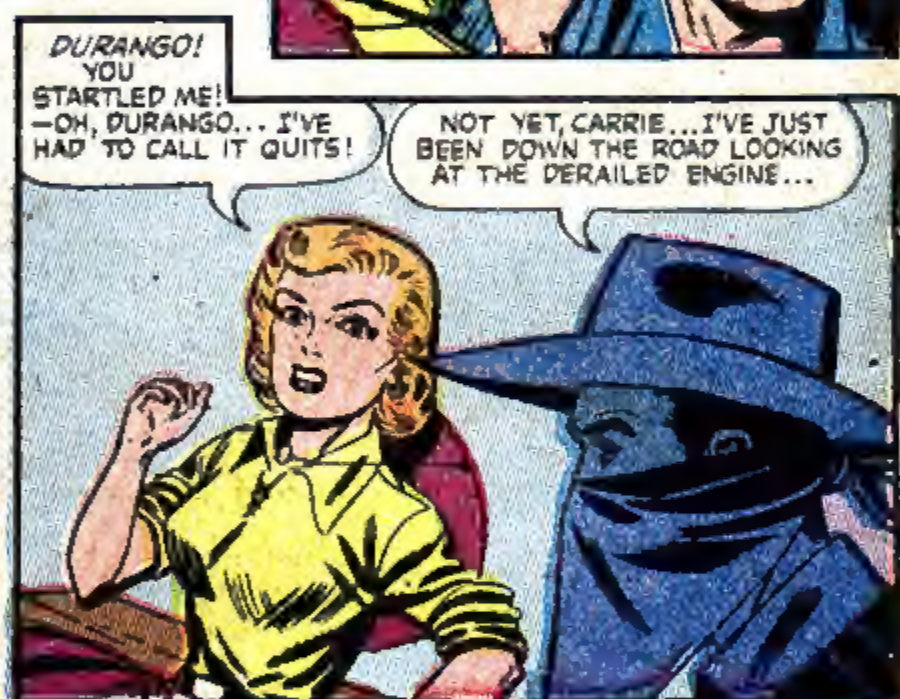
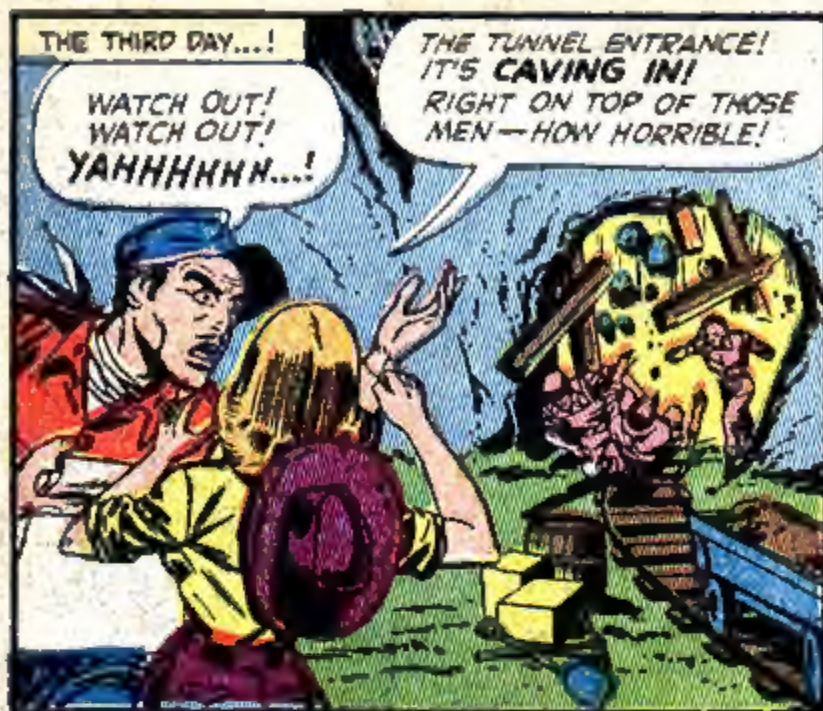
...WHILE I GO UP AND SAY HELLO!



HMMM.. DISAPPEARED! OUR BUSHWACKER'S A MIGHTY SLICK CUSTOMER! WELL—I'D BETTER GO DOWN AND PAY MY RESPECTS TO THE YOUNG LADY...







THE THIRD DAY...!

WATCH OUT!
WATCH OUT!
YAHHHHHH...!

THE TUNNEL ENTRANCE!
IT'S CAVING IN!
RIGHT ON TOP OF THOSE
MEN—HOW HORRIBLE!

IT'S NO USE, MEN. LUCK'S AGAINST
US. THERE'S BEEN ONE TERRIBLE
ACCIDENT AFTER ANOTHER AND THE
BANK REFUSES TO TAKE A CHANCE
ON ME. I CAN'T GET ANY MONEY
TO PAY YOU WITH. I—I'LL HAVE
TO LET YOU GO...

SOB-SOB-SOB!

DURANGO!
YOU
STARTLED ME!
—OH, DURANGO... I'VE
HAD TO CALL IT QUITS!

NOT YET, CARRIE... I'VE JUST
BEEN DOWN THE ROAD LOOKING
AT THE DERAILED ENGINE...

...AND I TELL YOU THAT WAS
NO ACCIDENT! I DON'T THINK
ANY OF THE OTHER THINGS WERE
"ACCIDENTS" EITHER. IN FACT,
I'M BEGINNING TO WONDER
ABOUT THE DEATH OF YOUR
FATHER...!

LET'S TRY TO THINK THIS
THROUGH, CARRIE. NOW—LET'S
SUPPOSE THERE'S SOMETHING
IN THAT TUNNEL THAT
SOMEBODY DOESN'T WANT
OTHER PEOPLE TO GET AT...

BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE
SENSE. WHY, THEN, WOULD
SOMEBODY CAVE IN THE
ENTRANCE TO THE TUNNEL?
NOW, *EVEN* HE CAN'T GET
AT WHATEVER'S IN
THERE—IF ANYTHING!



DURANGO LEAPS WITH THE SPEED OF A PUMA...!

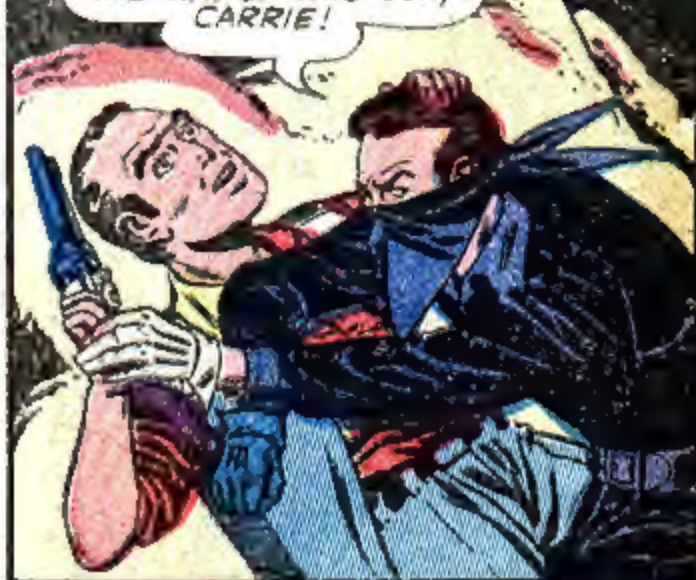
GIVE ME THAT GUN!

I'LL GIVE YOU A
BULLET FROM IT...!



THE STRENGTH OF A MADMAN IS GREAT...

GET BACK OUT OF
THE WAY OF THIS GUN,
CARRIE!



A SUDDEN KNEE THRUST!

UHHH!

BANG!

SOFT
BELLY,
HOMBRE!



BUT—THE BULLET SHOOTS
STRAIGHT UP THE HOLE
AND...



YOU'VE HAD
YOUR FUN,
MISTER—
NOW PAY!

DURANGO!
THAT BULLET
SPLIT THE
ROPE!



NOW THERE'S
NO WAY OUT
OF HERE!

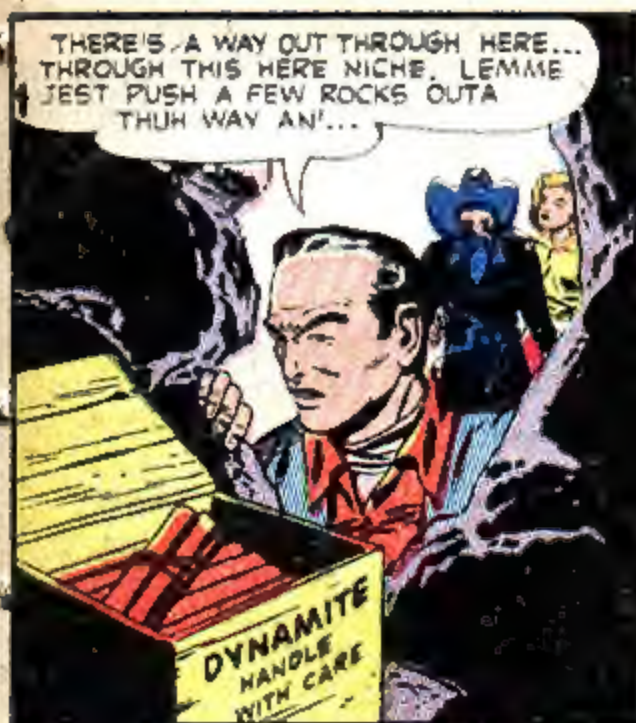
HOMBRE... YOU KNOW
EVERY INCH OF THIS PLACE!
GET US OUT OF HERE—YOU
MUST KNOW A WAY...!



SURE, SURE, DURANGO...
I'LL LEAD YUH OUT!
ONLY TOO GLAD TUH
GIT RID O' YUH!

I DON'T TRUST
HIM, DURANGO—
WATCH OUT FOR
TRICKS!





THERE'S A WAY OUT THROUGH HERE...
THROUGH THIS HERE NICHE. LEMME
JEST PUSH A FEW ROCKS OUTA
THUH WAY AN'...



THERE'S NO WAY OUT! I LED YUH TO
MUH DYNAMITE CACHE! —YUH'RE BOTH
GONNA DIE JEST LIKE WADE MORRIS DIED...
HAW-HAW-HAW-HAW!

GODDARD, INSANE WITH GREED, THROWS THE
DYNAMITE! BUT... DURANGO CATCHES IT, AND...



HERE'S YOUR DYNAMITE, GODDARD!
DUCK, CARRIE! DUCK BEHIND THAT
ROCK... FAST!



KAP BOOM



AS THE DUST SETTLES...

WE'RE SAFE, ALL RIGHT.
THAT HOMBRE'S
DEAD! BURIED UNDER
TONS OF ROCK, JUST
LIKE THE MAN HE KILLED!

BUT WHAT
ABOUT US?
HOW WILL
WE EVER
GET OUT
OF HERE?



SUNLIGHT!

THAT BLAST BLEW
A HOLE THROUGH
THE SIDE OF THE
TUNNEL!



FRESH AIR!
OH, TO LIVE
AGAIN!

AND TO WORK
AGAIN, CARRIE.
THE GOLD IN
THERE IS ALL
YOURS... AND
IT CAN HELP
YOU BUILD THE
RAILWAY...!

THE
END